

# MAORI FORTIFICATIONS OF THE OMATA AND OAKURA DISTRICTS, TARANAKI

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*Abstract.* Thirty-two Maori fortifications of the Omata and Oakura districts, Taranaki, are described. The majority of sites have ring-ditch defences. A high proportion enclose only a very small occupation area.

In recent years there has been a considerable effort put into archaeological site surveying, funded mainly by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. This has added to the public record a very large number of previously unrecorded sites including many fortified pa. Most surveying work, however, has been extensive rather than intensive in nature. Districts have been covered rapidly with the aim of recording most prehistoric archaeological sites within them. This has followed partly from the conservation and site management goals of the Historic Places Trust acting under the Historic Places Amendment Act 1975, and partly because of a widespread interest in site distribution studies. One result of this approach has been that topographically complex sites such as pa have been sketched quickly by pacing or tape and compass techniques and that more accurate mapping has been deferred until some time in the future when resources can be specifically directed to this end.

The archaeological study of Maori fortifications has proceeded fitfully since Best's pioneer work *The Pa Maori* was first published in 1927 (Best 1975). Since then there have been a number of important contributions of a descriptive and theoretical nature. While much material has been published, however, and some useful analytical ideas introduced yet we remain faced with a fundamental lack of accessible descriptive material on pa. The growing body of knowledge on site record forms has not found its way into published form. Improvements in theoretical discussion of Maori fortifications depends to a large extent on publication of basic descriptive material which may then be used for analysis. The most useful contributions are those which give descriptions of all sites in a particular region. This results in a controlled sample which may be used with confidence in comparative studies at many levels as well as providing a coherent descriptive work of interest in itself.

Taranaki is already the focus of one of the most important studies of pa yet published in New Zealand. In his *Archaeology in North Taranaki, New Zealand* Buist (1964) examined the Maori fortifications of the region between the Onaero River and Paranihi at the northern margin of the Taranaki lowland. Subsequent unpublished field recording in Taranaki has focussed on the Hawera and Patea districts and the area south of Stoney River. The aim of the present programme is to map all surviving pa between Stoney River and the present New Plymouth urban area and to record those now destroyed.

The region of interest between New Plymouth and Stoney River has a coastline of *ca.* 20 km and extends inland *ca.* 5 km. The coastline is open to the north-west and consists of extensive sand beaches separated by reefs of volcanic rock and boulders which can extend some distance offshore. Behind the coast is a sea cliff or scarp up to 50 m in height rising to a discontinuous terrace which may be traced south from the Omata district as far as Stoney River. In the centre of the survey area the narrowest part of the coastal plain is backed by the steep spurs and ridges of the Kaitake Range which rise to over 680 m. To the north and south the survey area is bordered by broken country which rises to the flanks of the Pouakai Range north of Mt Egmont. A major ridge of this higher broken country reaches the coast north of the Tapuae River.

The survey area comes within the traditional territory of the Taranaki tribe. History records that during part of the 18th century this tribe was on the offensive at the expense of the neighbouring Te Atiawa and that they occupied lands up to about the Waiongana River north of New Plymouth (Smith 1910: 216). Towards the end of the century, however, the Te Atiawa gained ascendancy and drove the Taranaki people southwards, early in the 19th century taking the great citadel of Koru on the south bank of the Oakura River. At the time of European intrusion the boundary of the Taranaki and Te Atiawa tribes had settled just north of the Herekawe Stream (Smith 1910: 117). Thus the survey area extends to what was, for some time at least, an important inter-tribal boundary.

The area was first settled by Europeans with the purchase of the Omata and Tataraimaka Blocks in 1847. The remainder was confiscated and settled in the 1860s. Pakeha settlers found an open countryside under bracken, tree fern and native shrubs and grasses which extended to the forest edge some 2 to 5 km from the coast. Original forest vegetation survived in patches on the terraces and in the narrow river valleys. Almost all Maori fortifications lie within the open and semi-forested coastal belt.

This paper reports the results of three weeks mapping of pa of the Omata and Oakura districts in November and December, 1979. The northern boundary of the work is the Herekawe Stream, the southern boundary is Ahuahu Road. The mapping was carried out by two teams using alidade and plan table or tape and compass and 'dummy' level according to topography and vegetation cover. A further two weeks in April, 1980, allowed some checking of original work and examination of sites in the area now too badly damaged for useful mapping.

The entire survey area falls within the N.Z.M.S.1 series map N108 (New Plymouth). Map references are from the third edition, 1970. Site numbers refer to the New Zealand Archaeological Association site recording scheme. Names ascribed to pa were obtained from the original Lands and Survey Department blocksheets covering the Paritutu and Wairau Survey Districts which are now in the Lands and Survey Department, New Plymouth. The 1950 aerial photographs referred to are from the New Zealand Aerial Mapping Ltd (Hastings) series, which are held by the Lands and Survey Department.

The distribution of pa within the surveyed area is shown in Fig. 1. Presentation of individual sites is organised geographically by stream or river catchment areas, working in general from north to south through the Omata and then the Oakura district.

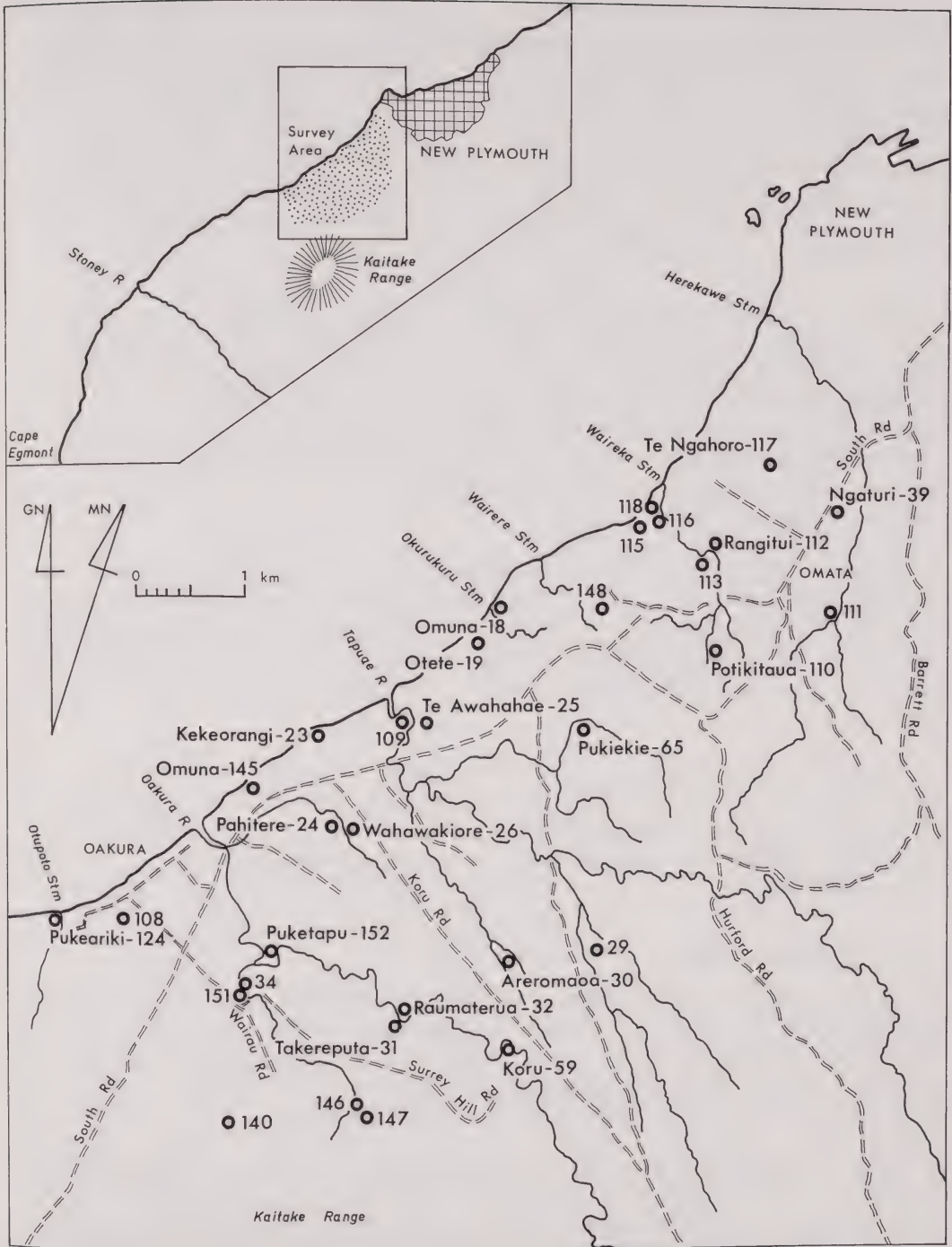
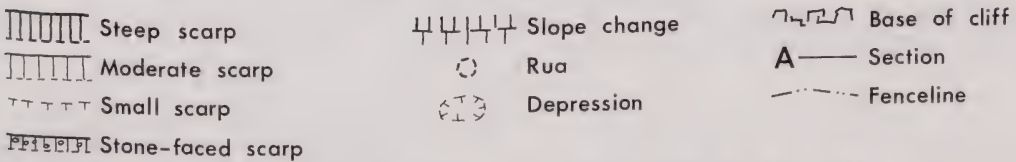


Fig. 1. Distribution of pa in the Omata and Oakura districts, Taranaki.



Key for Figs. 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16, 18, 24, 27, 28, 31, 34 and 35.

## Te Ngahoro N108/117 (598888) Figs. 2, 3

Te Ngahoro is situated on a prominent hill rising above the surrounding terrace country seaward of the main South Road between Beach Road and Herekawe Stream. It thus commands a wide area northwards to Paritutu and south to Waireka Stream. The site is topped by the 'Lloyd G' trig station, 88.5 m above sea level. Damage has been done by quarrying operations which some time in the past saw the removal of much of one of the two occupation platforms of the pa. The site is now under pasture. Its prominent skyline situation and its location on the outskirts of New Plymouth make Te Ngahoro one of the most visually important archaeological sites in Taranaki.

Defences consist of a single ditch and bank which runs around the site, broken only by road access to the old quarry. Outside the artificial defences further security is given by the steep slope of the hill to the south and east. A slight spur runs down to the west, while to the north there is an easy slope to the level ground below. The scarp from the bottom of the ditch to the rim of the occupation platforms is now about 4 m in height. Within the pa there are two platforms separated by a slight ditch and scarps which presumably indicate additional, internal defence. A slight rim surrounds most of what remains of the circumference of the two platforms.

Of the two platforms, the intact eastern one is the larger, being *ca.* 575 m<sup>2</sup> in area. It is also the higher platform of the two. The lower platform appears to have been *ca.* 450 m<sup>2</sup>. The total occupation area including the internal defences is *ca.* 1100 m<sup>2</sup>. There is no surface evidence of house terraces or other features on the two platforms. Two slight depressions in the outer bank are suggestive of collapsed *rua*, or underground food storage pits.

According to tradition Te Ngahoro was occupied towards the end of the 18th century (Smith 1910: 237, 242-243). With European settlement it became widely known as 'Major Lloyd's pa' after an early landowner. In February, 1861, the hill was used by a force of Taranaki and other southern tribes as a position from which to fire on the nearby Omata Stockade.

## Ngaturi N108/39 (605884)

Early in 1860, European settlers of the Omata district built a stockade on the site of a former Maori pa called Ngaturi. The situation was a commanding one on a hill which rose above the surrounding terrace country in much the same way as nearby Te Ngahoro. The site, which owes its present topography to the settlers' works of 1860, can be seen next to the main road above the left bank of the Herekawe Stream.

It seems likely from its situation that Ngaturi was defended by a single ditch and bank. When excavations were undertaken at the Omata Stockade in January and February, 1977, some evidence was uncovered of the earlier Maori occupation of the hill (see Prickett 1978a). Three *rua* had evidently been cut from different levels of an uneven occupation platform. These were apparently located on the former platform margin. A terrace cut in to the southern side of the hill had been filled in by the settlers in preparing the site for their fortification. The present rectangular platform of 25 x 15 m maximum dimensions gives an area of *ca.* 275 m<sup>2</sup>, which may not be substantially altered from the earlier occupation platform of Ngaturi pa.

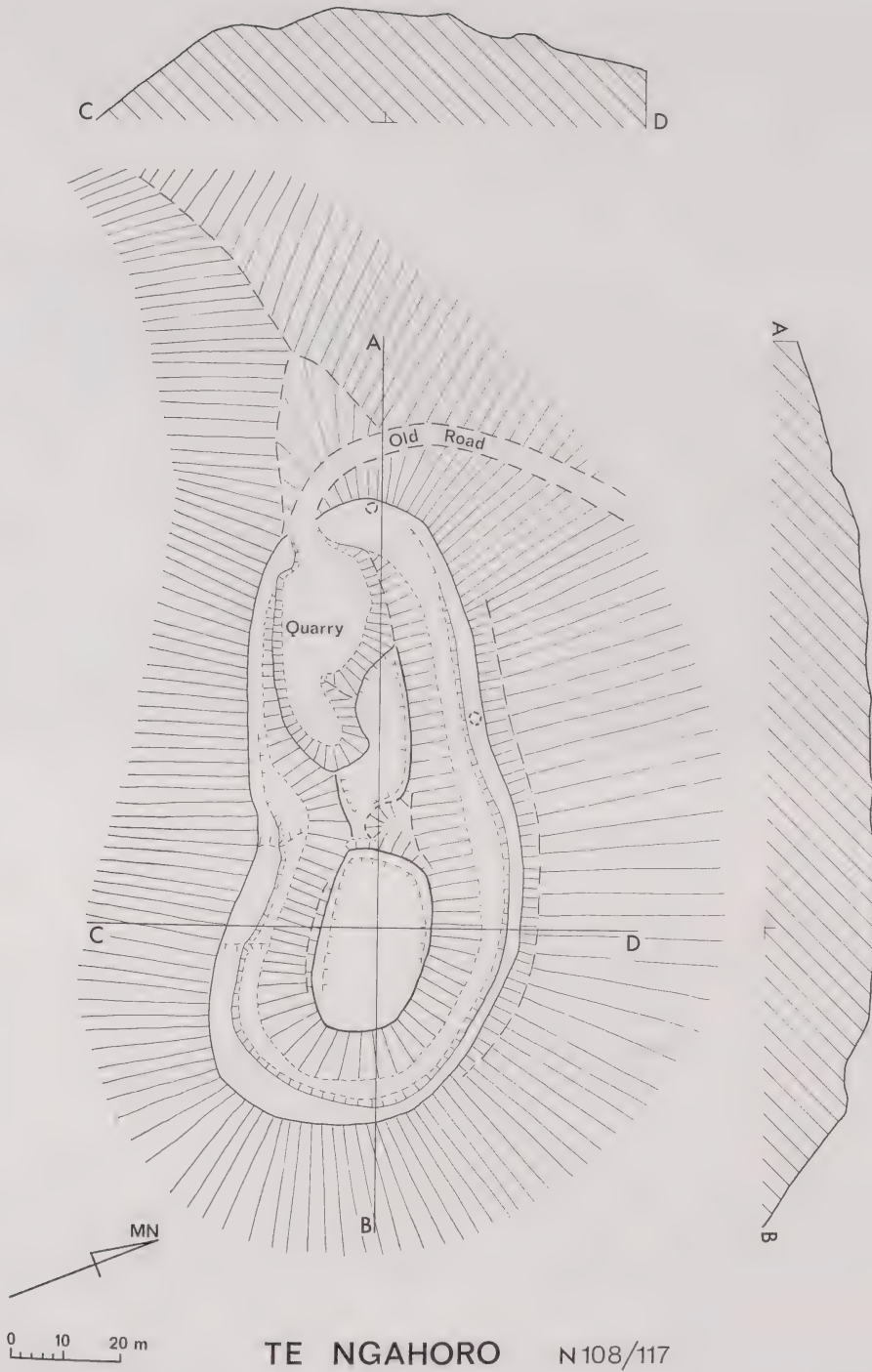


Fig. 2. Plan and sections of Te Ngahoro (N108/117).  
(For key to plan figures see below Fig. 1).



Fig. 3. Te Ngahoro from South Road — view from the east.

N108/111 (604873)

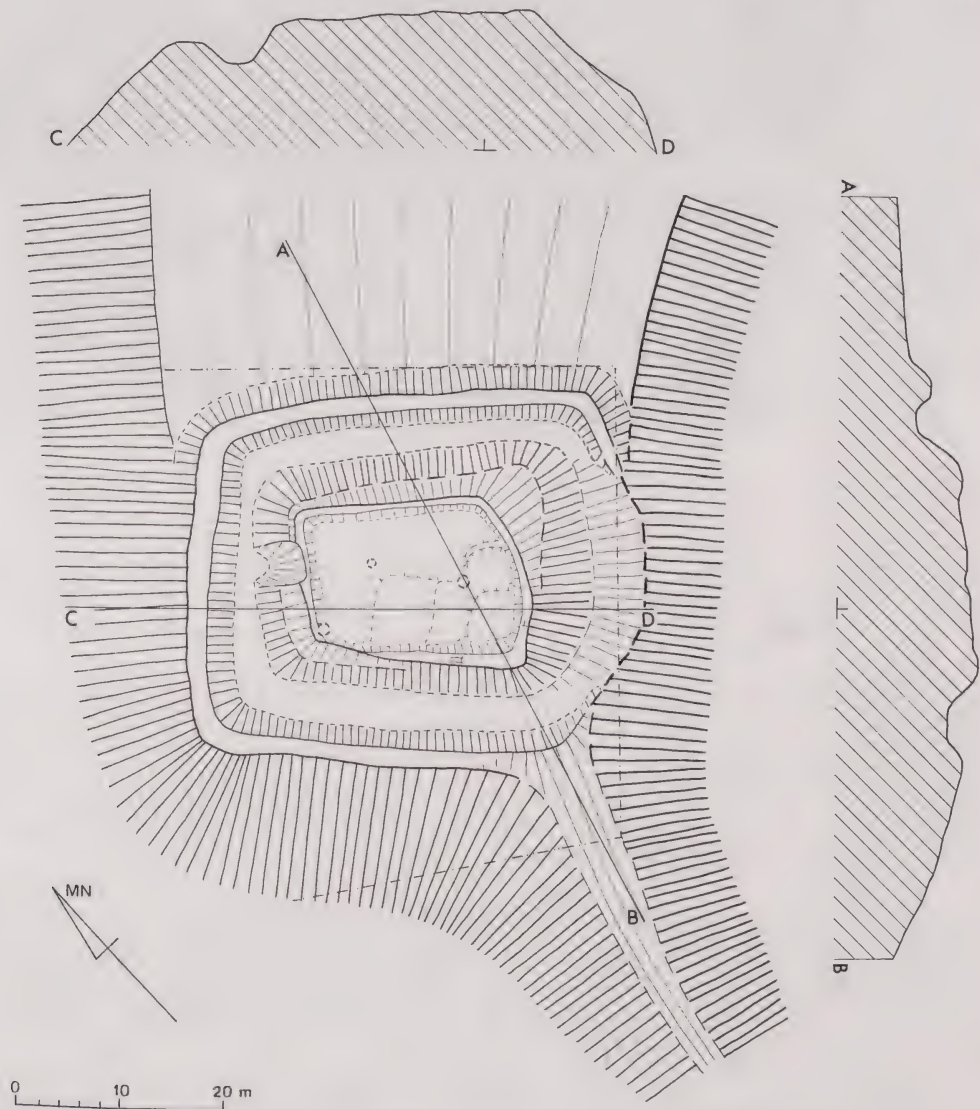
This small pa is situated at the confluence of the Herekawe and Mangahererangi Streams, at the end of an undulating spur which extends some 200 m from the south-east margin of the Omata terrace. The fortification is marked on the Lands and Survey Department blocksheet (Paritutu VIII, 36/10) but no name is given. The site is in poor condition under pasture. A blurred defensive ditch, some difficult terraces and a single open pit are all that remain.

The situation on the steep sided spur end allows strong natural defence on three sides. At the east end and south side is a precipitous drop of 30-35 m to the Herekawe Stream. The north side of the spur is slightly less steep and falls away into a side gully. The only artificial defence now apparent is an eroded ditch 12 m long and 5 m wide which cuts the spur at the west end of the site.

The main defended area is *ca.* 34 x 12 m, of an area of *ca.* 300 m<sup>2</sup>. A single platform rises slightly to an artificially flattened high point in the centre. Two or three more terraces are cut into the gentle slope which falls from the centre to the platform rim. Below the platform, on the comparatively easy north face of the site are two more artificial terraces. On the precipitous south side of the site a single open pit 5 x 2 m occupies a small natural terrace 10 m above the stream.

## Potikitaua N108/110 (592869) Figs. 4, 5

Potikitaua is situated on a spur between two upper branches of the Waireka Stream, between South Road and Waireka Road. It occupies a commanding knoll on a long, generally low, spur which runs down to the north. A deep and narrow saddle gives good natural protection against an advance down the spur, the two flanks offer only precipitous approaches, while the approach from the north is comparatively easy up a gentle slope. Higher ground to the south and west is *ca.* 200 m distant. Some erosion of defences has occurred, especially on the west side. The present landowner reports some filling in of *rua*



POTIKITAUA N108/110

Fig. 4. Plan and sections of Potikitaua (N108/110).



Fig. 5. Potikitaua — aerial view from the south.

pits in the past to prevent stock losses. The site is now under grass with scattered rewarewa outside the defences to the west and other native vegetation clinging to the cliff on the eastern side.

Its difficult natural approaches apart, Potikitaua is defended on three sides by a single strong ditch and bank, with a steep 3-4 m scarp to the occupation platform. On the east side of the pa the ditch and bank is absent, defence here being left to the precipitous natural slope. A pronounced rim surrounds the occupation platform, in places reaching upwards of 50 cm in height. This is especially strong at the southern corner next to the spur which runs away to higher ground.

The occupation platform of Potikitaua gives an available living area of *ca.* 250 m<sup>2</sup>. The platform slopes down to the north. Four or five small terraces were presumably designed to accommodate dwellings or other structures. Three characteristic depressions indicate *rua*, although what proportion this is of the original number is not known.

#### Rangitui N108/112 (593880) Fig. 6

Rangitui occupies a knoll in a low part of the long ridge between Waireka and Waioratoki Streams, *ca.* 700 m from the sea. It is a little up and across the Waireka Stream from N108/113. The situation is low down below the general level of the surrounding countryside. The site is now under grass and scattered native trees and shrubs. A single large karaka tree stands on the south-east end of the platform. The pa is mostly in



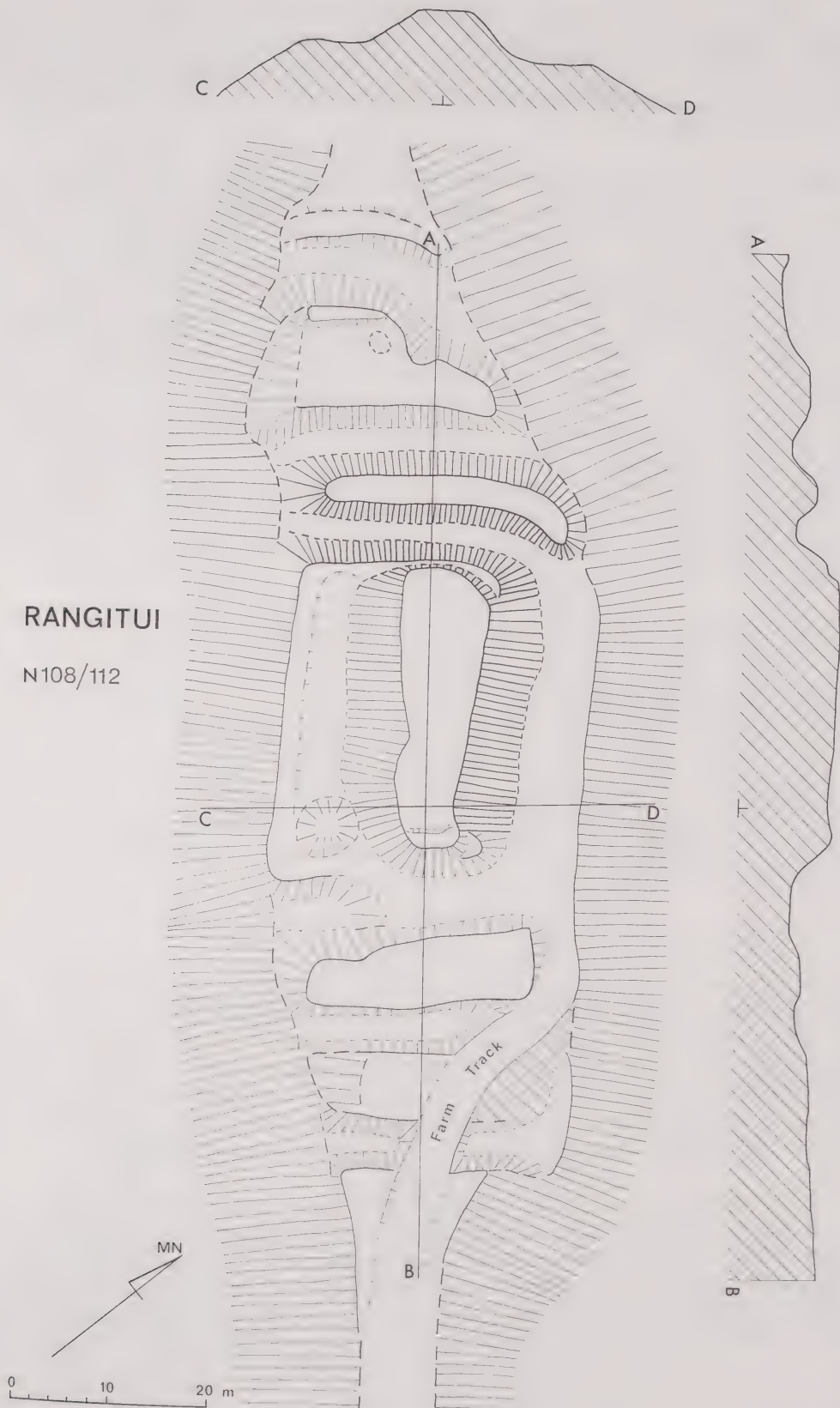


Fig. 6. Plan and sections of Rangitui (N108/112).

good condition, although a plantation of pines has recently been felled and removed from the south-west flank of the site with some damage being done to the earthworks. The defences of the north-east side have suffered considerably from the preparation of a farm track, the same track also having been cut through the successive ditch and bank defences of the south-east end of the site.

Use has been made of a slight knoll for the fortification despite easy approaches from both directions along the ridge. Higher ground is *ca.* 100 m distant along the ridge to the south-east and *ca.* 60 m along the ridge to the west. Neither are the flanks particularly precipitous: to the north-east there is an approximately 10 m drop into the now swampy bottom of the Waioratoke Stream valley, while on the other side the Waireka Stream runs *ca.* 20-25 m below the pa. Very strong ditch and bank defence compensates for the easy natural approaches. In both directions along the ridge are three ditches and intervening banks. A single ditch and bank runs along both sides. The total depth of successive defences at the south-east end (from the counterscarp of the outer ditch to the rim of the occupation platform) is 32 m. At the other end successive defences are even longer. Between the second and third ditch at the north-west end is a broad platform rather than a bank; this has a slight rim on the outer margin and a depression, possibly signifying a *rua*, on it, and may have been used as a living area. The present scarp from the inner occupation platform to the bottom of the ditch is *ca.* 4 m high. The south-east end of the platform is topped by a substantial 50 cm high bank.

The total area occupied by the fortification is *ca.* 2400 m<sup>2</sup>. The considerable defences, however, defend only a tiny inner platform of *ca.* 200 m<sup>2</sup>. The platform is 28 m long and 5-9 m wide. Successful defences would, of course, have required outer banks to be manned as well as the inner platform, and this would have presented an attacking force with a formidable problem. The size of the defended occupation area, however, meant that only a small number of people not actively engaged in defence could have been accommodated. Thus this pa may have been a forward tactical fortification designed as a battlefield fieldwork rather than as a defended retreat for a local population. The lack of evidence for food storage, however, leaves open the question of how long any defending force could have held out.

#### N108/113 (591878) Fig. 7

N108/113 is situated low on a spur between two small gullies on the left bank of the Waireka Stream *ca.* 700 m from the sea. The site is clearly visible from Rangitui *ca.* 150 m distant across the stream valley, and from N108/116 at the mouth of the stream. Use is made of a low rise in the spur which is separated from the high terrace edge about 120 m distant by a broad saddle. The site is under grass, with scattered karaka, rewarewa and other native vegetation. Damage has been done by the formation of a farm road which crosses the ditch and continues up the east side to the occupation platform.

The natural defences of this fortification are slight with easy approaches on every side except to the east where a steep slope falls away into the more substantial of the two flanking gullies. Artificial defences are of the single ditch and bank form. The outer bank is incomplete, partly through recent damage and partly also through much older gaps in the defences which presumably date from the period of construction or occupation. The ditch is wide and the scarp to the occupation platform almost 6 m high in places, although

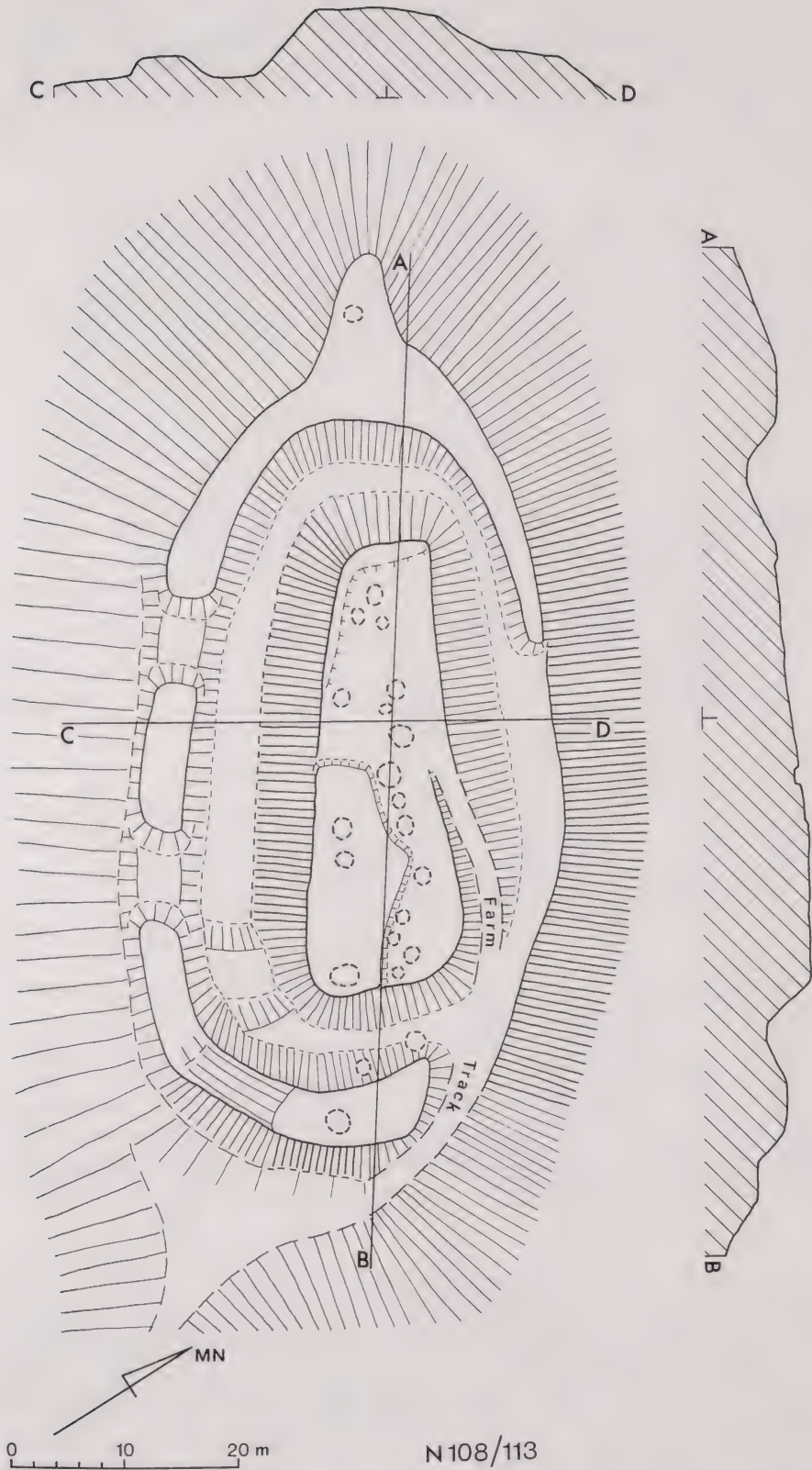


Fig. 7. Plan and sections of N108/113.

only half that at the north-west end. There are two *rua* within the ditch at the south-east end of the site and a further *rua* on top of the outer bank beyond. Another possible *rua* is on the bank at the north-west extremity of the site. On the platform rim at the same end is a substantial bank which presumably added to the defence of the weakest sector of ditch and bank.

The top platform is 38 x 9-13 m in size, *ca.* 400 m<sup>2</sup> in area. The platform is unusual within the survey area in that much of it is taken up by *ca.* 18 *rua*, indicating a great deal of storage for a comparatively small fortification. An area of *ca.* 120 m<sup>2</sup>, which occupies much of the higher south-east end of the platform, is separated from the remainder of the broken platform by a slight scarp. The platform as a whole slopes down to the north-west.

#### N108/116 (586883) Fig. 8

This fortification is marked on the early Lands and Survey Department blocksheet (Paritutu IV, 36/6) but no name is attached. It is located at the northernmost corner of the major terrace now occupied in large part by the Ivon Watkins-Dow research farm, high on the south bank of the Waireka Stream. A slight knoll near the top of a spur leading off the terrace has been strongly fortified. The site commands both the valley of the Waireka Stream to the north and east and the steep face that runs down to low but precipitous sea cliffs to the west. Some damage has been done with use being made of the ditch and bank defence on the east (Waireka Stream) side for a farm track which now runs down the spur. There is also some recent stock damage. The site is under grass.

On the east side of the site a precipitous hillside drops 20 m to the Waireka Stream. To the north and west the approach is up a steep face or slight spur. The southern, vulnerable side of the pa, which faces up the spur, has been strongly fortified. The main defence of the site is a single ditch and bank which encircles the platform. On the uphill side is a second ditch, the counterscarp of which drops straight off the research farm terrace. The bottom of the outer ditch is 2 m lower than the bank within. The main ditch at this uphill side has a scarp now almost 4 m high to the platform rim. For most of the remaining circumference of the platform the scarp is *ca.* 3 m high falling to 2 m at the north side. A slight bank rings the top platform, at the vulnerable southern side rising to more than a metre above the platform level, making it one of the most substantial defensive features of this type in the survey area. On this high section of platform rim are two large holes suggestive of substantial postholes. A gap through the outer bank on the north side, now utilised by stock, may have provided access to the ditch and so into the pa.

The occupation platform of this fortification is only 18 x 13 m maximum dimensions, giving an area of approximately 200 m<sup>2</sup>. There is no terracing apparent on the occupation platform which dips slightly to the north and no *rua* were found. On the steep spur below the northern defences are two terraces, from one of which a track appears to run up to the access through the outer bank. Farm roading may have destroyed more evidence of occupation nearby.

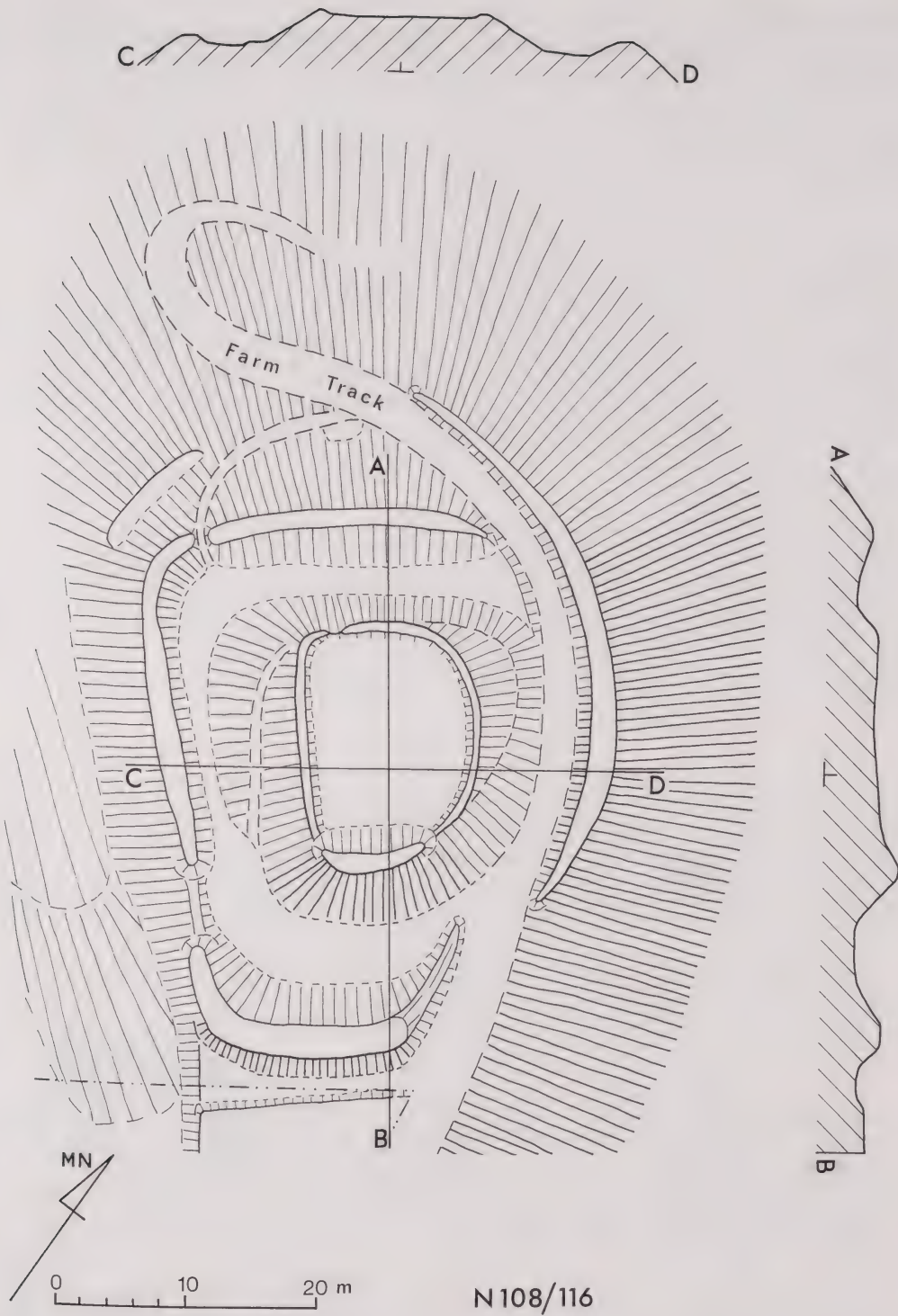


Fig. 8. Plan and sections of N108/116.

N108/118 (586884) Fig. 9

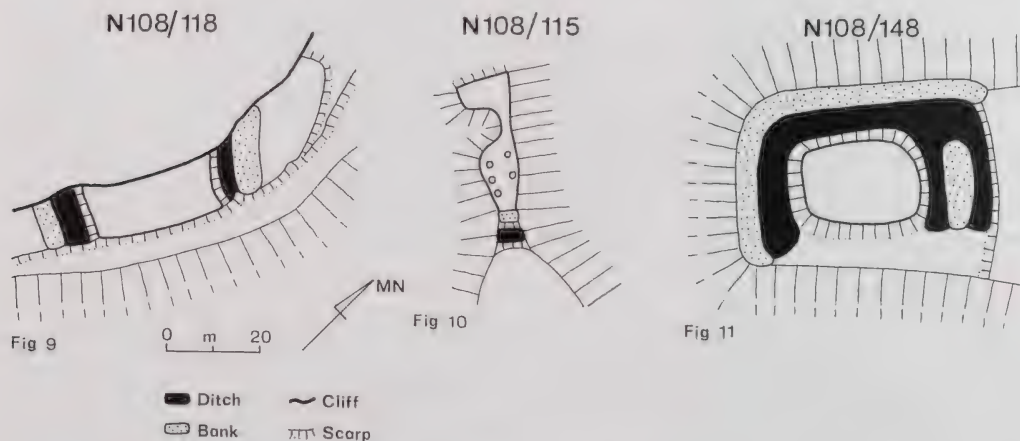
Approximately 100 m north and below the prominent ring-ditch pa N108/116 is the remains of a fortification situated on top of the sea cliff on a low spur which runs northward on the left bank of the Waireka Stream. A farm road makes use of the ditch and bank above the Waireka Stream effectively destroying the defences on this side of the site. Much of the remainder of the site is now vanishing as wind blows away the light soil.

The 1950 aerial photograph (1787/5) shows the four sided fortification standing out fairly clearly under light scrub. The artificial defence consists of a single ditch which runs around three sides with the cliff making the fourth side. Remaining surface evidence indicates a defended platform *ca.* 26 m long, and the 1950 aerial photograph suggests a width of perhaps 20 m. A defended area of *ca.* 500 m<sup>2</sup> is thus indicated. Surface evidence suggests a slight terrace *ca.* 20 m in length outside the defences to the north. Erosion of the sea cliff may have accounted for an unknown amount of the site over the year.

N108/115 (584881) Fig. 10

This tiny fortification is on the sea face *ca.* 100 m from the rim of the Ivon Watkins-Dow research farm terrace and 40 m above the sea. It is 250 m west of the prominent ring-ditch pa N108/116. Use has been made of a very vulnerable situation on a narrow, steeply sloping spur. Much of the bottom end of the site has been entirely removed by the recent preparation of a fence line — what has been lost being barely visible under light scrub in the 1950 aerial photograph (1787/5). What remains is under pasture.

Defences consist of a single ditch which cuts the spur at the uphill end of the site. Beyond it the spur rises to completely command the defended area from only a few metres distance. A bank at the upper end of the defended area takes the usual form. The sides are defended by steep slopes — on the north-east side dropping 8-10 m into a now swampy gully, and on the south-west side dropping 5 m to a terrace now occupied by sheep yards. The 1950 aerial photograph shows what may have been a ditch along the latter side but



Figs. 9-11. Pa plans. 9. N108/118. 10. N108/115. 11. N108/148.

this is now gone. The spur is almost cut through *ca.* 17 m below the upper transverse ditch, perhaps allowing some internal defence. The now vanished defences at the seaward end of the site appear from the aerial photograph to have been another 10 m down the spur.

The steep and narrow occupation area has six *rua* on it. No artificial terraces are evident. The defended area appears to have been less than 200 m<sup>2</sup>.

N108/148 (581874) Fig. 11

This pa is located near the headwaters of the Wairere Stream south of Sutton Road. It is situated on a short side spur dominated by the higher ground of the Sutton Road ridge a few metres from the north-east defences. There does not appear to have been any knoll on the spur, but the precipitous hillsides off the end and sides allow good natural defence directed to these approaches — this presumably compensating for the vulnerable north-east end. The site is under grass with some macrocarpa trees off the sides. The topography is blurred and indistinct. Recent tree felling operations have involved some damage to the defences of the uphill side.

Defences consist of an encircling ditch and bank with an additional ditch at the north-east end. This outer ditch is somewhat unusual in that the single encircling ditch continues into both the end ditches rather than, as is usual, for the outer ditch to cut across the ridge quite separately.

The occupation platform has an area of *ca.* 250 m<sup>2</sup>. There is no sign of *rua* or other internal features on the platform which dips slightly to the south-west.

Omuna N108/18 (570874) Figs. 12, 13

The name of this pa comes from the Lands and Survey Department blocksheet (Wairau II, 45/4) where it can only be assumed it has not been confused with a second 'Omuna' near the mouth of the Oakura River (N108/145). N108/18 is *ca.* 350 m north of Otete (N108/19) and is situated in a similar unobtrusive situation. The site is close to the north bank of the Okurukuru Stream low down below a scarp which rises steeply *ca.* 120 m away to an extensive terrace, the rim of which completely commands Omuna. The fortification makes use of a slight natural knoll at the seaward margin of a low rolling terrace. It is now under pasture, in generally good order but with stock damage severe in places.

Omuna enjoys good natural defence on three sides — only the inland east side being vulnerable to rising ground beyond the defences. On the north and south sides are slight falls into the heads of short gullies, while to the west is a steep, though not precipitous, drop to the sea beach 25-30 m below. Artificial defences are made up of a single ditch and bank all around. The counterscarp is up to 2 m high while the platform is 3.5-6 m above the ditch.

The occupation platform dips slightly to the west. There are two collapsed *rua* on the platform but no other sign of internal organisation. The platform is 18 x 15 m maximum dimensions, of an area of *ca.* 200 m<sup>2</sup>. Approximately 50 m south-west of the pa is a single isolated pit on a steep spur leading down to the Okurukuru Stream.

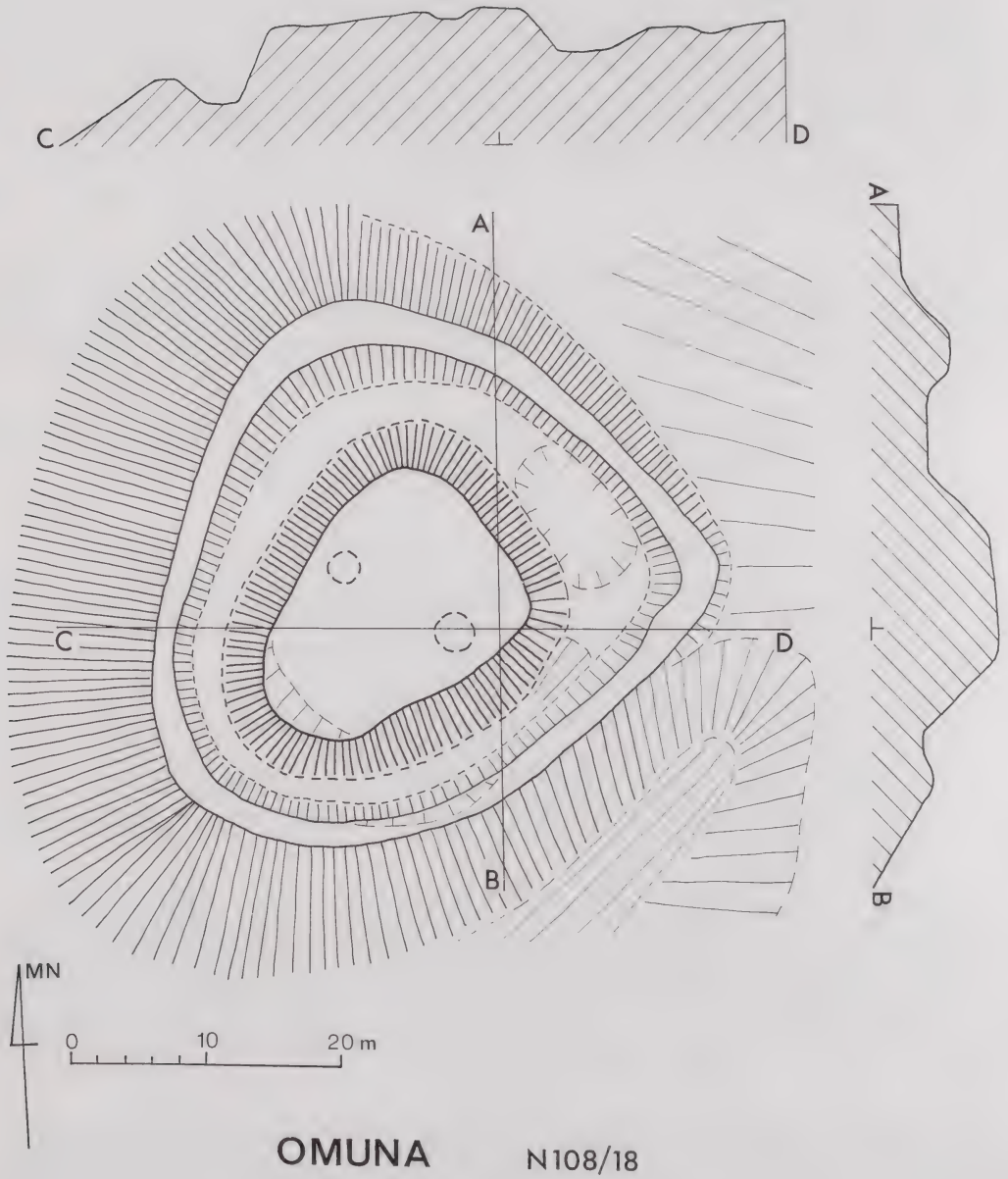


Fig. 12. Plan and sections of Omuna (N108/18).





Fig. 13. Omuna (N108/18) — aerial view from the north.

Otete N108/19 (568870) Figs. 14, 15

The Lands and Survey Department blocksheet (Wairau II, 45/4) which gives the name of this pa also gives 'Hakura' as the name of the small watercourse on the site's southern flank. Otete is located on a narrow spur 25-30 m above the beach. The site is dominated by higher spurs only 40-50 m away on both flanks and by steeply rising ground to the south. Considerable damage has been done by initial work for a dam or crossing at the mouth of the short gully to the north and at the two transverse ditches across the site. The scarp defence of the west side is suffering from severe stock damage in places. The site is now under grass.

Artificial defences consist of two ditches crossing the spur, the first is the major defensive ditch presented to the vulnerable southern approach, and the second divides the site in two some 40 m beyond. Flanking defence makes use of steep natural scarps falling some 5-10 m into the now swampy gullies on both sides of the site. The northern occupation platform ends at a precipitous slope to the beach. A slight bank is unusually located, not as is usual at the margin of the occupation platform next to the vulnerable downhill approach, but at the other end of the main platform next to the inner transverse ditch.

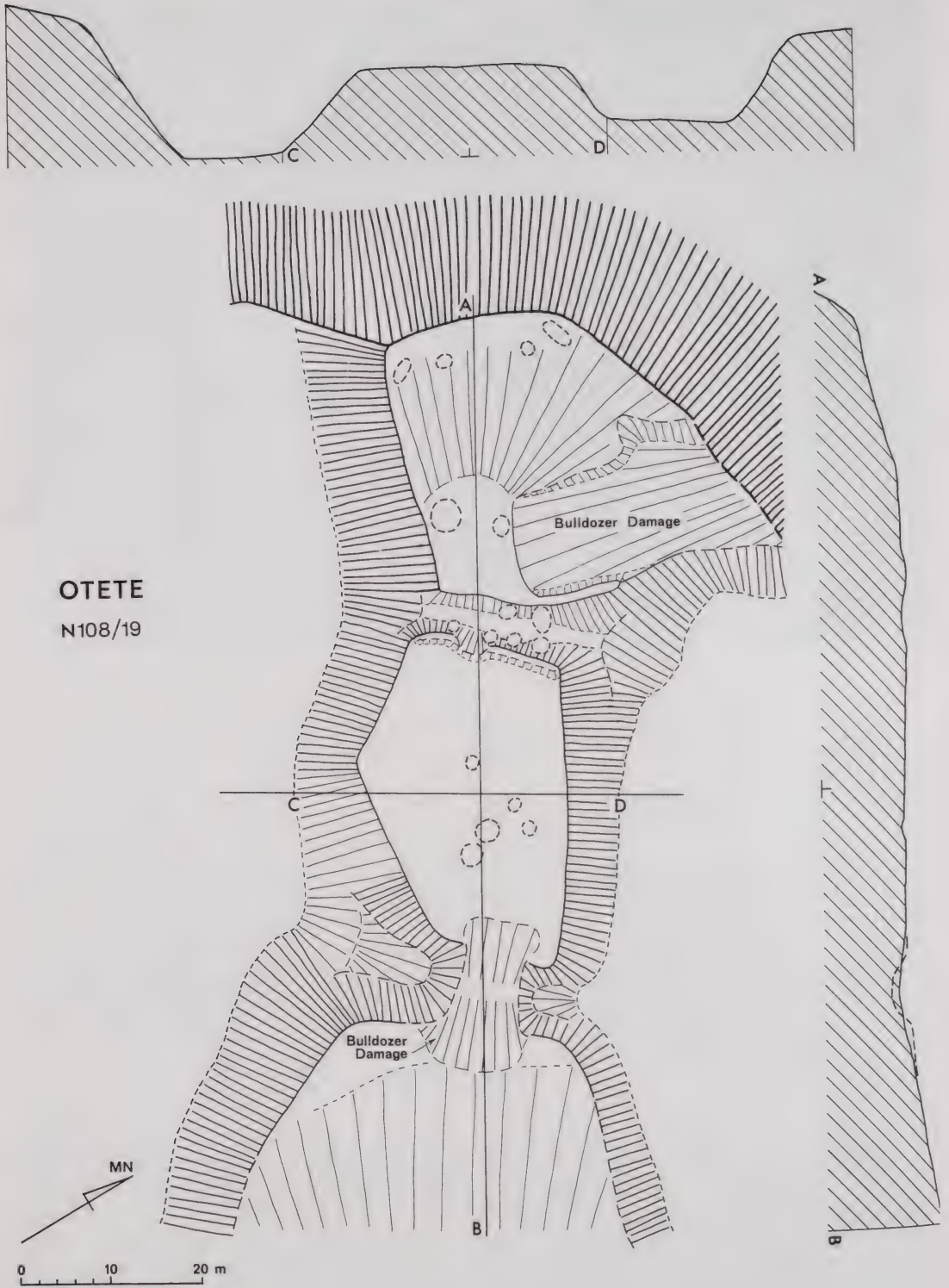


Fig. 14. Plan and sections of Otete (N108/19).

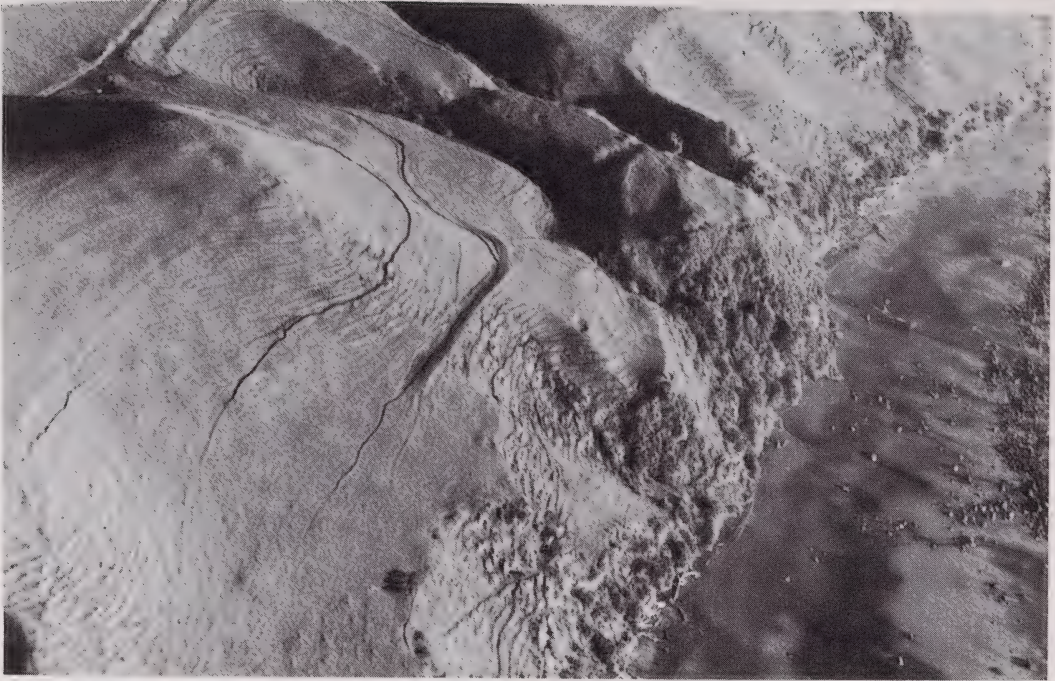


Fig. 15. Otete — aerial view from the north. Two pairs of pits can be seen on the cliff edge in the foreground.

The southerly (main) occupation platform is virtually level and shows no sign of internal organisation except five *rua*. Six more *rua* have been dug into the sides of the inner transverse ditch. What remains of the north sloping seaward occupation area indicates three, or perhaps four, *rua* and some slight scarps suggestive of terracing. Two unusual sharply defined open pits close to the cliff top may belong to the pa or may be later, perhaps even the product of Second World War home guard activity. A similar pit stands isolated on the cliff top *ca.* 100 m north of the fortification, while further north again are two pairs of *rua* situated close to the present cliff top (see Fig. 15). The main platform of Otete is *ca.* 35 x 15-22 m (about 650 m<sup>2</sup>), while the seaward platform is 30 x 30 m at its greatest extent giving an area of perhaps 700 m<sup>2</sup>. The total area within the outer ditch is *ca.* 1500 m<sup>2</sup> — this including the inner transverse ditch with its important food storage role.

Pukiekie N108/65 (579861) Figs. 16, 17

Pukiekie occupies the top of a prominent hill between Plymouth Road and South Road. Along the northern side the ditch and bank defences have been transformed into a farm road, while some damage is also apparent on the east side. Localised stock damage has also occurred. A boxthorn hedge cuts through the site which is otherwise under grass. Some karaka trees survive on the flanks of the hill below the fortification.

This pa is unusual in the survey area in its use of a commanding natural situation. Elsewhere in the lower Tapuae River valley many high hills with precipitous approaches have been completely neglected, the preferred location even when these superb defensive

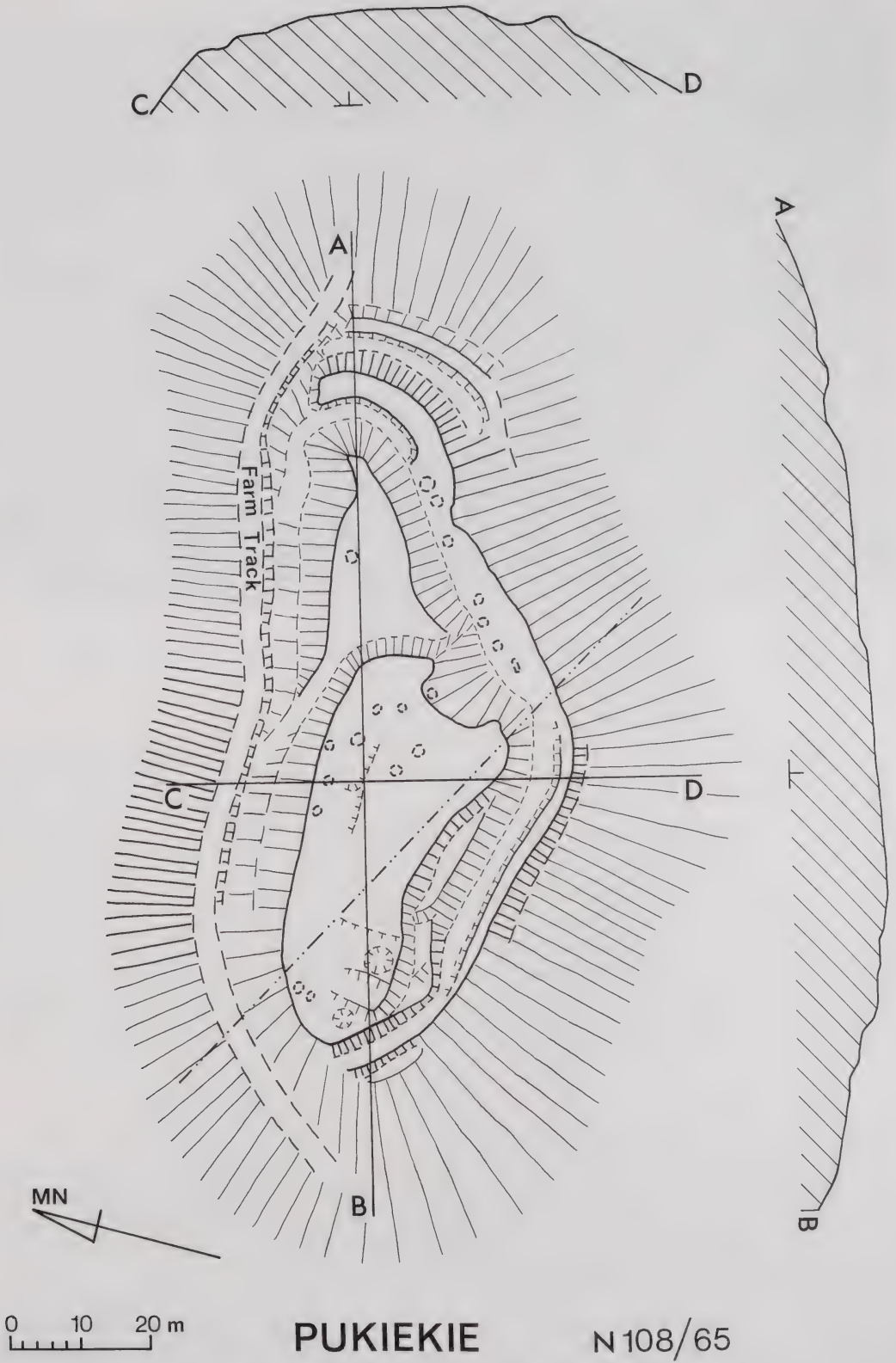


Fig. 16. Plan and sections of Pukiekie (N108/65).



Fig. 17. Pukiekie — aerial view from the north-east.

situations were available remains the unobtrusive spur end low in the stream valleys. Pukiekie is protected to the north, west and south by precipitous natural slopes to the now swampy valley bottoms *ca.* 40-50 m below the defences. To the east is a slight saddle to extensive, slightly lower, rolling country. Artificial defence is made up of a single ditch and bank which was presumably continuous around the site. At the vulnerable east end is a short length of double ditch and bank. A scarp of 1.5 m divides the occupation area in two and may have provided a basis for further internal defences directed at holding the major platform in the face of possession of the lower east end of the pa by an attacking party.

The uneven larger occupation platform has upwards of ten *rua* and several small terraces which together indicate something of the internal organisation. The *rua* cluster at the two ends of the platform. A further six or seven *rua* are located in the defensive ditch of the south-east side of the pa. The lower platform is triangular in plan. Only one *rua* could be located on it. The maximum dimensions of the occupation area within the defences are 80 x 25 m with an area of *ca.* 1350 m<sup>2</sup>. The upper platform is *ca.* 1000 m<sup>2</sup> and the lower *ca.* 300 m<sup>2</sup>. Immediately outside the defences at the west end of the site is a single terrace 8 x 2 m in size, while three more terraces are further down the steep western spur, *ca.* 20 m below the defences.

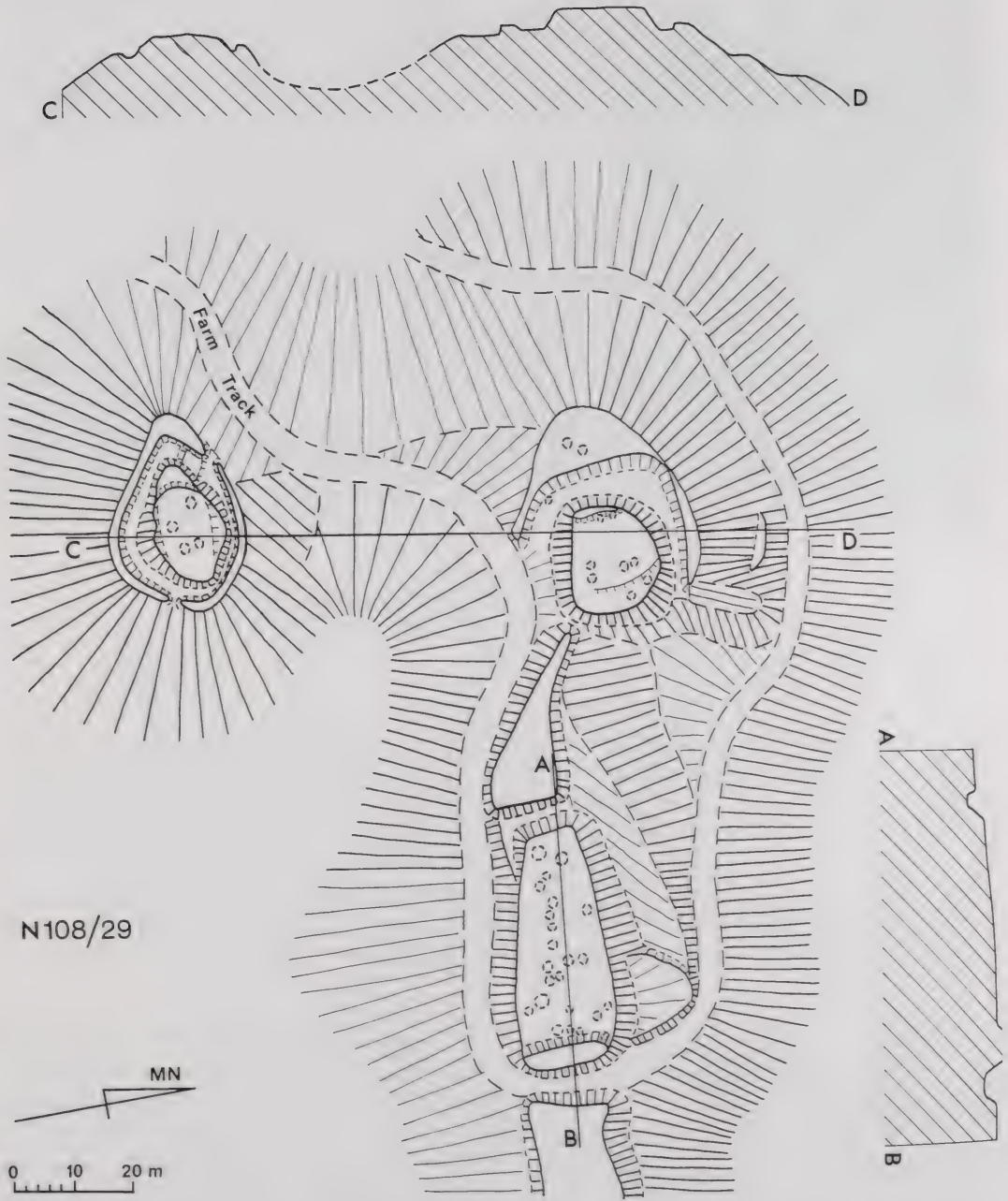


Fig. 18. Plan and sections of N108/29.



Fig. 19. N108/29 — aerial view from the south-west.

N108/29 (580839) Figs. 18, 19

N108/29 can be seen across a gully 200 m east of Plymouth Road, 2.5 km from the main South Road. It is *ca.* 3 km from the sea and is located on the edge of rolling country broken by the valleys of many small streams which extends east of Plymouth Road to the high ground traversed by Hurford Road. West of Plymouth Road is the extensive terrace country of the Koru Road district. The site is unusual being made up of three small ring-ditch fortifications. Between them they command adjacent gullies and beyond for at least 200 m distance in all directions. N108/29 is now under rough pasture and bracken. Considerable damage has been done to the ditches of two of the defended areas by preparation of a farm track which now winds its way through the site. The site is otherwise in good condition except for local slumping and stock damage.

Natural defences of this pa are not strong. The approach from all sides is easy, except to the south side of the smallest strongpoint and from the low ground between the positions which is in any event flanked by fortifications. The hills stand *ca.* 20 m above the bottom of adjacent gullies. The largest defended area is 35 m distant and 5 m higher than its neighbour on the same ridge. The smallest strongpoint is 70 m from the major defended area and 60 m distant and *ca.* 3 m lower than the other. This position commands the valley west of the site which is not covered from the other two strongpoints. Platform scarpers are *ca.* 3-4 m in height. Defence in the form of banks at the platform rim occurs at the east end of the major platform, where it is up to 3 m across and stands a metre above the adjacent platform level, and at the west end of the neighbouring strongpoint. This

indicates that these two fortifications, at least, make up parts of a whole since the platform rim defence is directed outwards at each defended area, the other end of each platform being covered from the neighbouring position.

The occupation platform of the major strongpoint is 38 x 8-16 m in size, with an area of *ca.* 475 m<sup>2</sup>. An unusual storage capacity is indicated by at least 23 *rua*, a marked feature of which is their distribution down the centre of the long axis of the platform with areas adjacent to the defensive scarps generally left clear. The second strongpoint has an occupation platform of 17 x 15 m maximum dimensions with an area of *ca.* 200 m<sup>2</sup>. A low scarp divides off a 2-3 m wide terrace on the western side. There are two *rua* on this low area, with another six, in three pairs, elsewhere on the platform. Another two *rua* are outside the defences at the west end while one is located inside the ditch nearby. The smallest strongpoint is less distinct than the others having suffered some slumping of the platform margins. It may have been 16 x 8 m in size (*ca.* 130 m<sup>2</sup>). There is at least one *rua* on the platform with indications of three more. Assuming contemporary occupation, the total defended area of this pa is *ca.* 800 m<sup>2</sup>. As many as 36 *rua* give a considerable storage capacity.



Fig. 20. Areromaoa — aerial view from the north. Taken in November 1974, the photograph shows the remains of three defensive ditches east (left) of the occupation platform which have since been destroyed.



## Areromaoa N108/30 (571838) Figs. 20, 21

Areromaoa lies on the end of an almost level spur which divides two small tributaries of the Mangaone Stream 300m east of Koru Road and *ca.* 3 km from the sea. Until the early 1970s the earthworks were virtually intact under pine plantation. Not many months before I first visited the site in November, 1974, the pines were removed with extensive damage done to the site. Since then more damage has occurred. What remains is now under pasture with some litter and occasional native understorey vegetation surviving the tree-felling operations.

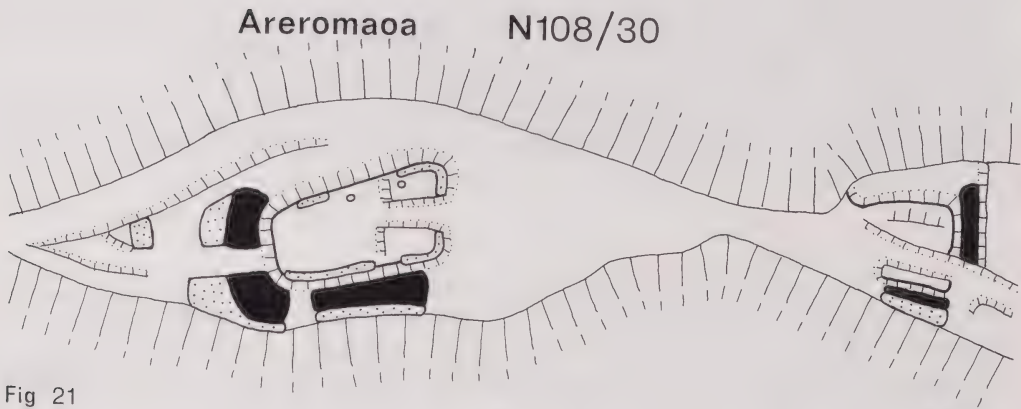


Fig 21



Fig 22

Figs. 21, 22. Pa plans. 21. Areromaoa (N108/30). 22. Te Awahahae (N108/25).

On the two flanks of the fortification the sides of the spur fall *ca.* 15 m into the adjacent gullies — abruptly to the north and fairly easily on the south side. The fortification is located on the very end of the spur and thus commands the steep approach up from the fork of the stream. The vulnerable quarter is the south-east where there is no natural defence against an approach down the spur. This end of the site formerly exhibited some of the strongest successive defensive arrangements of any pa in the survey area.

Eighty metres from the occupation platform the badly damaged remains of a ditch can be seen cutting across the spur — here about 15 m wide — and turning at both ends to begin flanking defence now 16 m long on one side and 12 m long on the other. It seems unlikely that these flanking ditches ever extended much more as the spur beyond is too narrow and steep sided to accommodate useful flanking defence. Forty metres within the outer ditch, at the narrowest part of the spur, is a faint suggestion of a second transverse ditch. The immediate approach to the occupation platform was barred by three more ditches. These are now totally destroyed, but in 1974 they survived, although cut away on both sides, to indicate a succession of steep sided ditches separated by banks of perhaps 3-5 m width (see Fig. 20). Thus Areromaoa was defended against attack from the vulnerable quarter by at least four, probably five, successive ditches over a distance of 80 m. The ditches were closer together near the occupation platform and, from evidence available in 1974, may have increased in size as well. There is no possibility now of knowing if there was evidence of occupation on intermediate platforms. A noticeable bank at the platform rim completed defence directed against an approach down the spur.

The occupation platform was flanked on both sides by a single ditch and bank — in 1974 already cut away by the bulldozer. At the west end two ditches appear to have secured the pa against an approach up the spur, although the outer one of these is problematical on present surface evidence. Despite damage the platform scarp height may be determined at 3-4 m.

The remains of the occupation platform indicate an inner defended area of 26 x 12-14 m with an area of *ca.* 300 m<sup>2</sup>. The higher eastern third of the platform is marked off from the remainder by a slight scarp. In addition to the usual defensive bank at the vulnerable end, a low bank can be picked up at the platform rim down both sides. Since 1974, the occupation platform has been so damaged that 'several *rua*'. then noted on the platform, are now represented by only two, close to the northern margin.

#### Te Awahahae N108/25 (563863) Figs. 22, 23

Te Awahahae is situated on a spur above the right bank of the Tapuae River between the main South Road and the sea, about 500 m from the river mouth. It is immediately over the river from N108/109. The location is low within the valley but the fortification has an advantage over similarly situated pa in the survey area with natural defences made stronger by a deep saddle to higher ground up the spur. The site is now under pasture with some pine trees encroaching on the west end. It is mostly in good condition although some damage has been done by the formation of a farm track, which makes use of the ditch and bank defences of the north side, and by stock which are breaking down the main occupation platform scarp.



Fig. 23. Te Awahahae — aerial view from the north-west.

Te Awahahae enjoys strong natural defences. On the north and south sides of the spur steep hillsides drop 12-15 m to lower ground. At the upper end of the site is a broad saddle 6-8 m below the platform which is *ca.* 50 m across to higher ground. At the west end of the fortification is a narrow but easy approach up the spur from the river. Artificial defence of the main occupation platform is made up of a single ring-ditch. The original form of the ditch is now unclear on the two flanks of the site: on the north side substantial damage has destroyed much of any outer bank there may have been, while on the south side an outer bank at the high east end now falls away to terrace and scarp defence near the west end. The scarp from the main occupation platform is *ca.* 5 m high on the two flanks. At the two ends, however, the ditch rises steeply from each side to cross the spur and the scarp here is reduced to as little as 2 m height. At the east end in particular a marked high point in the ditch may have provided access to the occupation platform; a bank on the platform rim above adds to defence at this end.

Outside the ditch at the east end of the site is a small area of ground only slightly lower than the upper end of the platform itself. Only a few metres across it the ground falls steeply away into the saddle to higher ground. There are faint indications of modification to the natural topography here, perhaps indicative of occupational use, but there is no sign of artificial defence for this area. An extension of the flanking defence by only a few metres would have brought this potential danger point within the fortification and given command over the approach to this end. At the west end of the site a more substantial, triangular, platform 12 x 10 m in maximum size again lacks artificial defence — except as might be provided by a palisade on the platform rim. This platform has two *rua* on it.

The defended occupation platform of this site is 23 x 13 m, giving an area of somewhat less than 300 m<sup>2</sup>. Evidence of internal organisation takes the form of three major terraces dipping to the west. Five or six *rua* on the platform are divided among the terraces, with a group of three clustered together on the lowest. An easy slope extending down the north margin of the platform is suggestive of internal access.

#### N108/109 (560862)

This artificial ditch is a prominent feature in the landscape on the south bank of the Tapuae River between the main road and the coast. It takes a most unusual form for a Maori fortification but no other origin seems likely. A single ditch extends 45 m across a spur. No other earthworks are in evidence. At both ends of the ditch, cliff or hillside drop precipitously to the river 35-40 m below. Erosion appears to have largely filled in the ditch and the outline is now blurred. From rim to rim it is 7-10 m wide. The ditch is *ca.* 75 m downslope from the top of the spur. Below is an easy north facing slope. On the Lands and Survey Department blocksheet (Wairau II, 45/4) the site's location is marked by the name 'Te Kohanga'.

#### Kekeorangi N108/23 (551861) Fig. 24

Kekeorangi is located on the sea-cliff between the Tapuae and Oakura Rivers. It takes up all of an extensive terrace cut off from the general terrace country of the surrounding area by the deep gully of the Orahiri Stream. The position is a commanding one: the site rises above the inland terrace country and so has a useful view inland as well as some distance both ways along the coast. Kekeorangi is now under grass with some gorse along the margins. It appears to be in good condition although some damage has been done to the easiest approach at the east end of the site. How much of the site has disappeared through erosion of the sea-cliff is not known.

Natural defences are provided by a sea-cliff at 45-50 m and a steep hillside of *ca.* 35 m into the gully on the southern flank. The weakest point of the perimeter is at the east end where the gully of the Orahiri Stream rises rapidly to only a little below the general level of the site. Access to the pa presumably lay across the narrow saddle between the gully and the sea-cliff. Artificial defence consists of a single ditch which now has gaps in it but may be assumed to have run around the entire site — this is located below the terrace rim at the top of the hill slope. Beyond the slight outer rim of the ditch the hillside drops steeply away. The insubstantial defences are out of scale with the very large defended area and are unusual in the survey area where massive ditch and bank defences are normal. Within the pa a high area on the sea-cliff has been used to provide two adjacent inner defensive platforms or *tihī*. These are divided by a ditch and have terrace and scarp defence directed towards the remainder of the site. The two platforms of the *tihī* area are *ca.* 350 m<sup>2</sup> and 125 m<sup>2</sup> in size.

Kekeorangi is the largest fortified site of the survey area. The total defended area is 260 m in length and up to 100 m wide, with an area of *ca.* 16000 m<sup>2</sup>. The occupation area is divided into two by a slight scarp which marks off the higher east end of the site. Elsewhere *rua* are clustered into two areas: four are situated close to the southern margin of the site and another six are strung along the back of a distinct terrace which is cut into the slope rising to the smaller (northern) *tihī*. Further slight dimples over the site will undoubtedly include at least some other *rua*. Much of the site is level or nearly level so

KEKEORANGI

N108/23

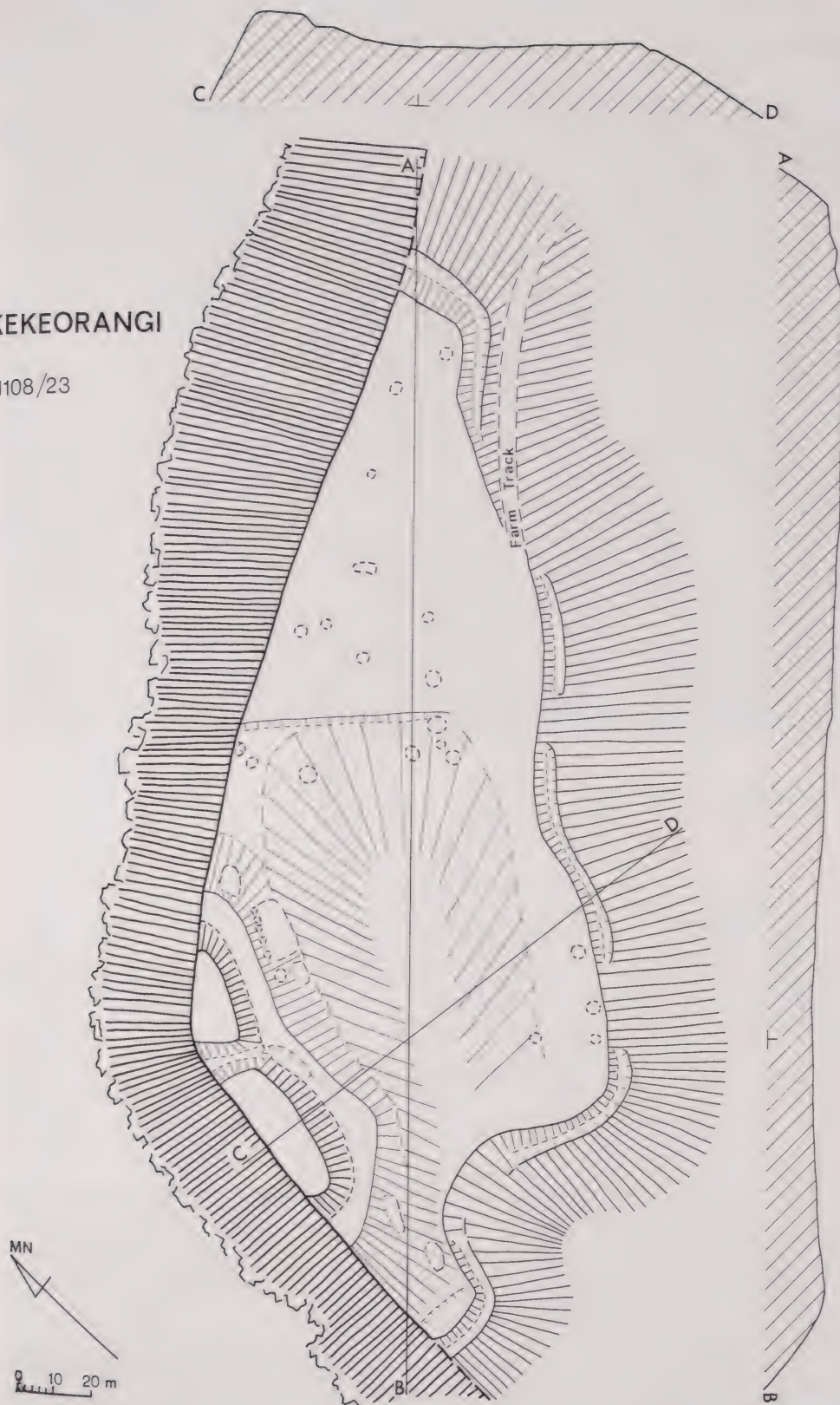


Fig. 24. Plan and sections of Kekeorangi (N108/23).

house platforms are generally invisible; there are, however, five terraces on the sloping lower flanks of the two *tihī*, while another is situated adjacent to the four isolated *rua* just within the defences at the south side.

#### Omuna N108/145 (545856) Fig. 25

Omuna is situated on top of the 50 m high sea-cliff *ca.* 500 m north of the Oakura River mouth. Its cliff-top location gives command of the sea and beach, and its location on a slight eminence above the neighbouring terrace country allows a useful view inland. The site is now under grass except for the occupation platform which has a thick cover of gorse.

This fortification is defended on one side by the precipitous sea-cliff. The other sides offer easy natural approaches. Artificial defences consist of a single ditch on three sides with the natural hill slope of the long south side allowing an outer bank as well. The platform scarp is *ca.* 2 m high. Erosion over the sea-cliff may have accounted for some of the occupation platform over the years although it is unlikely that it was ever a great deal larger than its present 200 m<sup>2</sup> size (*ca.* 25 x 10 m maximum dimensions).

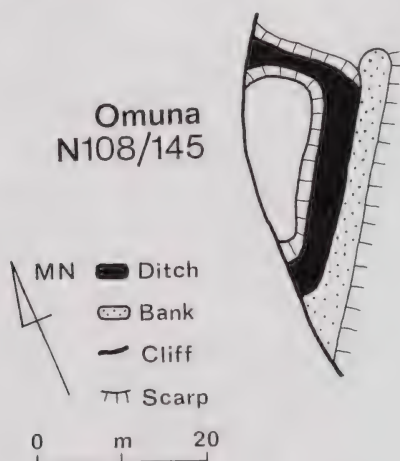


Fig. 25. Plan of Omuna (N108/145).

#### Pahitere N108/24 (553852) Fig. 26

This fortification is just south of the corner of the main South Road and Koru Road and occupies a prominent hill rising above the general level of the surrounding terrace country. It stands high above the nearby pa, Wahawakiore (N108/26), about 100 m to the east. The site is now mostly under grass with some gorse and bracken which have helped preserve the steep scarps from stock damage.

Pahitere was occupied in 1864 by part of a company of Taranaki Military Settlers and was modified to an unknown extent to accommodate the troops. This occupation has resulted in the very rectangular plan of the top platform and the outer defences as they now appear, in the terraces on the eastern side of the hill and in the slight bank which



Fig. 26. Pahitere (N108/24) — aerial view from the north. Wahawakiore is under bush cover at top left.

encircles the top platform at its rim. Best (1975: 222-224) clearly had no idea of its later military use when he described this site. As a result of the later use it is difficult to make out the form of the earlier Maori fortification. That it was a pa is known from historical references of the 1860s and from the partly destroyed ditch which can be seen outside the Military Settlers' defences. The location of this ditch, together with the apparent lack of later throw-out from the present inner ditch, makes it possible that this was a site unique in the survey area which was defended all around by a double ditch and bank. An easy approach from the south and comparatively easy approaches from the other sides add to the argument for unusually strong defences. The modified top platform has an area of *ca.* 250 m<sup>2</sup>.

#### Wahawakiore N108/26 (555852) Fig. 27

Wahawakiore is located south of Koru Road *ca.* 100 m east of Pahitere. Its situation is singularly unobtrusive — low on a short and narrow spur which drops into the Te Wawa Stream from the extensive terrace country between the Tapuae and Oakura Rivers. It is so completely dominated by nearby Pahitere that it seems improbable that it operated as an independent fortification; its role may therefore have been to provide supplementary accommodation for its larger neighbour. Wahawakiore is now under wattle with an understorey of mahoe and kawakawa. It is in good condition except for the outer defences of the south end which have suffered from fencing and are under grass in a paddock adjacent to most of the site.

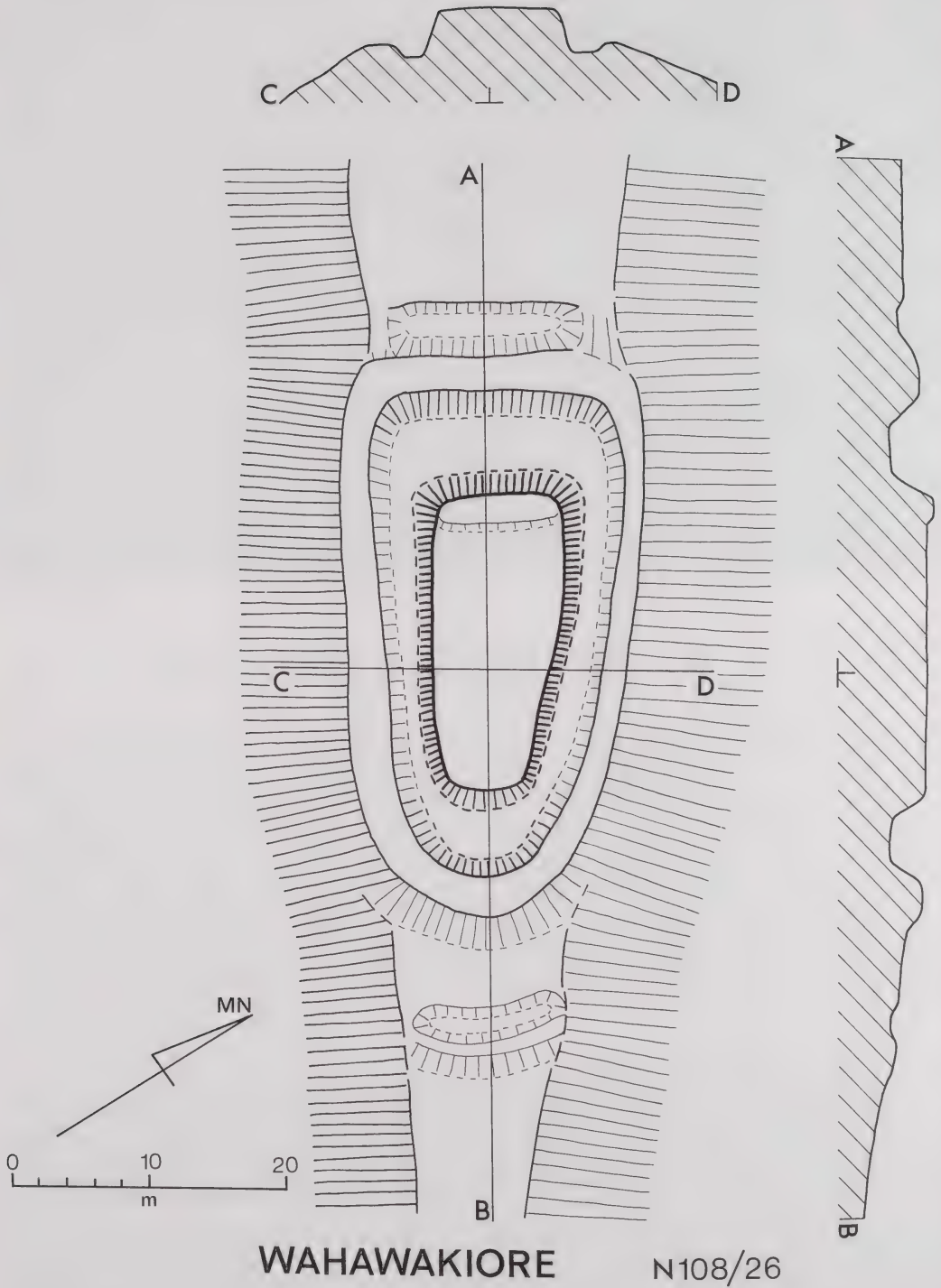
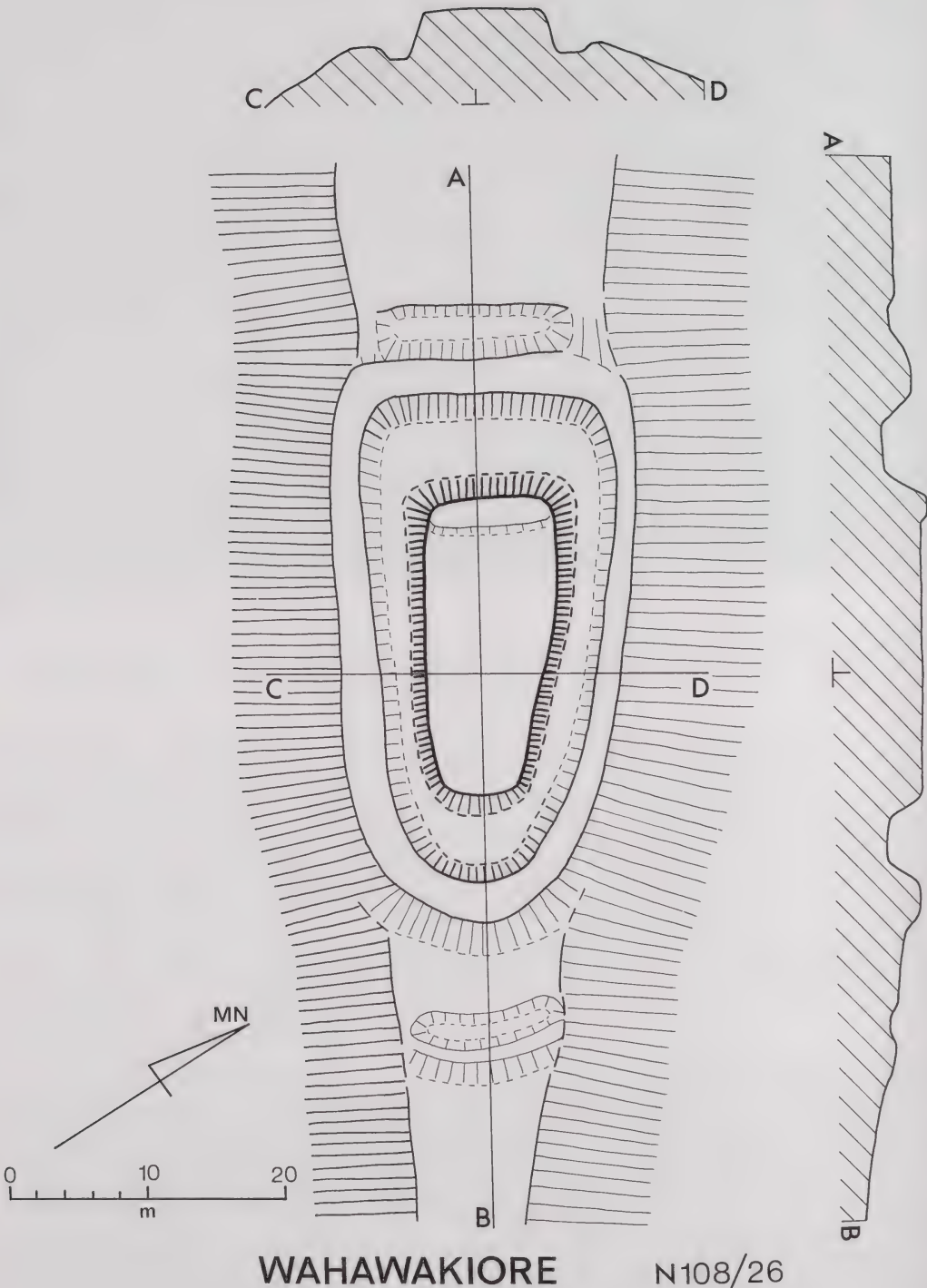


Fig. 27. Plan and sections of Wahawakiore (N108/26).







WAHAWAKIORE N108/26

Fig. 27. Plan and sections of Wahawakioire (N108/26).

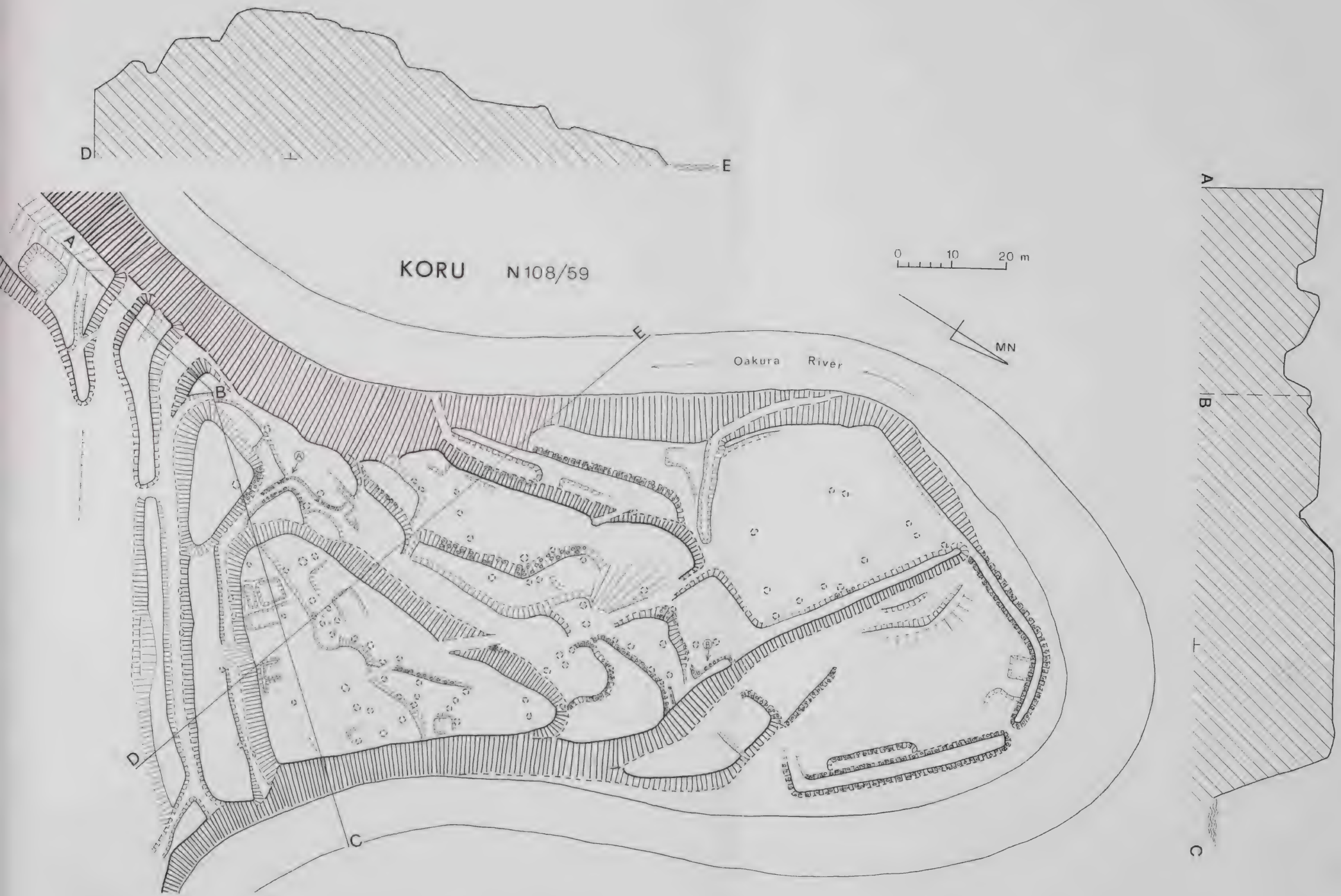


Fig. 28. Plan and sections of Koru (N108/59).



Natural defence for Wahawakiore is provided by steep slopes dropping about 15 m into now swampy gullies on both sides. The site is dominated by high terrace country to the east and west, and by steeply rising ground 50 m over a slight saddle from the southern defences. Artificial defence is provided by a single ditch and bank which rings the defended area and by a second ditch outside this at the north and south ends. The scarp from the ditch to the platform rim is 3 m high throughout. At the south end the outer ditch is *ca.* 9 m beyond the main ditch and appears not to have completely cut the ridge. At the north end of the site the outer ditch is more substantial but again does not quite cross the spur. A bank rises 50 cm at the northern end of the occupation platform.

Within the defences is a single occupation platform 21 x 6-9 m in size giving an area of *ca.* 160 m<sup>2</sup>. Outside the northern defences a platform which takes up the whole of the ridge top is virtually level for a distance of 50 m and a width of *ca.* 20 m. This extensive area may have provided an additional undefended occupation area of almost 1000 m<sup>2</sup>. The presence of this flat area adjacent to the defences at what is nominally the downhill end of the site provides an explanation for the second ditch and the bank on the platform rim at this end. Despite being the down-spur end this was the vulnerable quarter requiring the major defensive strength.

Koru N108/59 (571828) Figs. 28, 29, 30

Its size, complexity and known history make Koru the most significant pa of the survey area. The fortification occupies a spur on the left bank of the Oakura River almost 4 km from the sea, below the Kaitake Ranges. The spur is surrounded on three sides by a bend of the river which, it has been presumed (Smith 1910:258), gives the pa its name — *koru* meaning loop or bend. The site is a Lands and Survey Department historic reserve. It is in excellent condition under a tall canopy dominated by rewarewa, karaka and kohekohe with an understorey of kawakawa, matipo, mahoe, hangehange and other native species.

Like many smaller pa of the survey area, Koru occupies a site low on a spur, without any command of the surrounding countryside. Use has been made of a steep sided knoll at the end of a spur which rises to higher ground to the south, ultimately to the Kaitake Ranges. Natural defence consists of steep scarps to the river on both sides of the pa with a steep but greatly modified scarp to a small river flat on the south-east side. The north end of the peninsula falls to the river level and has required some assistance from artificial defences. The Oakura River itself, with its rough bed of large rounded boulders completely commanded from within the pa, adds considerably to the natural defence.

Artificial defences may be discussed in two sections: the massive ditch and bank works of the landward south and south-east side, and the successive scarp and terrace defence of the approach up the pa from the vulnerable north end. The chief artificial defence of Koru is a double ditch and bank across the landward end. This is supplemented by a third ditch on the rising spur *ca.* 40 m south of the outer of the two major ditches. Considerable damage has been done to this ditch in the course of preparation of the present fence line; what remains suggests a ditch 8 m across and 3 m deep. Best (1975: 213) states that originally it did not quite cut the spur.

For cultural reasons, this image has been removed.  
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Fig. 29. Koru — showing a sunken pathway with stone revetted walls (view A on Fig. 28).

Across the narrow spur the major defence takes the form of two massive ditches 4-5 m deep and *ca.* 5 m across at the bottom. With the intervening bank the width of these defences is *ca.* 25 m, with a further 50 m up the spur to the outer rim of the third transverse ditch. Just outside the major defence is a terrace or open pit cut 2.5-3 m into the spur and measuring 9 x 7 m in plan. The outer of the two main ditches cuts 10 m through the spur before turning to extend *ca.* 12 m outside the inner ditch and bank. A further slight depression may relate to a former continuation of this ditch. The inner ditch cuts only 5 m across the spur before turning to extend almost 75 m across the rear of the pa to the river at the upstream end of the site. The outer bank here presents a 4 m high obstacle to an attacking party while the counterscarp into the ditch is up to 2 m in height.

From the main ditch which cuts through the isthmus at the rear of the site a scarp rises 6 m to a platform 6 m wide at the rear of which is another ditch below yet another abrupt 5 m scarp to the top platform or *tihī*. The inner ditch in this part of the defences extends *ca.* 40 m from the upstream cliff to the river, across the rear of the *tihī*, before cutting through the site to isolate a secondary triangular platform. Present site access which turns the south-west end of this defence from the main ditch probably reflects an original entrance to the pa since a notable internal access way runs out to this point.

For cultural reasons, this image has been removed.  
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Fig. 30. Koru — a low stone revetted scarp at the rear of a terrace (view B on Fig. 28).

For most of the long circumference of Koru there is no ditch, instead use is made of the high natural scarp to the river as the main defence. At the upstream end of the site the uppermost platform drops directly *ca.* 20 m into the river bed. The scarp to the river becomes progressively lower below this platform. On the west side the scarp again diminishes in height down the successive terraces of the pa. While the rough river bed itself gave some security, yet the low north end of the pa did offer problems for successful defence. The scarp to the river is only 3-5 m high here. For some of the rim of the major terrace in this part of the site there is a slight bank to add to defence. Along the eastern side of this terrace is a steep sided bank almost 40 m in length which is 1-3 m high on the internal (south-west) side and 4-6 m high on the outer (north-east) side. Outside this bank a large area, little higher than the river bed, is enclosed by a remarkable wall stone faced on both sides, which is between one and two metres high and *ca.* 2 m across. This may have been designed for both flood control and defence.

The numerous high scarps within the pa doubtless offered effective secondary defence to any breach of the comparatively weak defences of the low riverside scarps and terraces of the north end. As many as five successive major scarps, sometimes 5 m in height, would each have presented formidable obstacles to an attacking party that gained possession of the lowest terraces.

Koru occupies a total area of *ca.* 160 x 60 m — approximately 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The area within the major external defences is a little more than 7000 m<sup>2</sup> although massive internal scarps make the actual living area somewhat less. Within the defences Koru consists of a series of major terraces dropping away to the north-west. The highest of these is a triangular platform of *ca.* 1000 m<sup>2</sup> which is divided in two by a scarp of *ca.* 1 m height. Scattered over this *tahi* are more than 30 *rua* and several rectangular depressions suggestive of house floors, one of which has in the centre a stone-lined hearth of four river boulders. Below are three major terraces which extend the width of the site. At the bottom is a further major terrace of *ca.* 1250 m<sup>2</sup>. East of this, over the unusual defensive wall, is a similar area of somewhat broken ground little higher than the river bed.

At the north-west corner of the pa is a well graded track which runs up from the river, through the scarp, and across the large bottom terrace to cut through the scarp to the next terrace. A path then runs directly up through successive terraces to the *tahi*. This is presumably the major routeway through the fortified settlement, and for the uppermost platforms it is the only access. Other routes through individual scarps are scattered throughout the site.

It is possible now to count over 80 *rua* on Koru. Doubtless many more are covered by erosion from the steep scarps, especially as a characteristic location at this site is at the rear of terraces. Some pairs of *rua* are connected underground. Many *rua* entrances are in excellent condition having been subject to almost no erosion since abandonment of the site — such entrances are as little as 40 cm square. *Rua* are scattered throughout the site, occurring even at the base of defensive ditches of the south-east side where those now visible almost certainly reflect a greater number now buried. The preferred location of *rua* at the rear of terraces left the major part of a terrace free for surface buildings while it added to the strength of the pit by the depth of naturally compacted soil above.

Perhaps the most remarkable features of Koru are the scarps revetted by round river boulders which occur throughout the site (see Figs. 29, 30). This method of maintaining steep scarps in the light volcanic soils is known elsewhere in Taranaki, for example at Ngaweka on the south bank of Stoney River and Tapuinikau on the Teikaparua River, but nowhere is the work as spectacular as at Koru. It is, however, likely that the stone revetments have suffered some erosion over the years as the 3 m height of such walls depicted by Best (1975: 210-211) cannot be found today. Smith (1910: 258) mentions such walls up to 15 feet (4.5 m) high. The greatest height of such work to have survived is about 2 m; debris at the foot of higher scarps locates Best's illustrations. The stone revetment is mostly used simply to face scarps; in places, however, it is used to face defensive walls (notably on the riverbank at the north end of the site), and to hold the sides of sunken pathways.

Koru is said to have been occupied by people of the Taranaki tribe until the early years of the 19th century. In the first decade of the century it was attacked and taken by a Te Atiawa force (Smith 1910: 258). It is said that the pa was finally abandoned in the 1820s. In 1898 an important wooden door lintel, now in the Taranaki Museum, was found on the site (Skinner 1973: 11).



## Takereputa N108/31 (560831) Fig. 31

Takereputa is on the left bank of the Oakura River *ca.* 100 m upstream and across the river from Raumaterua (N108/32). The site is below the general level of the surrounding countryside on a slight spur leading northward down to the river. Much of it is fenced off from surrounding paddocks and is now under gorse, bracken and some large macrocarpa trees. The outer ditch and bank at the northern end and all the defences of the south end are under grass in neighbouring paddocks and have been damaged in places. A farm track cuts through the defences at the south end and destroys much of the defensive bank of the west side of the site. Apart from local damage, however, the site is generally in good condition with many of the scarps close to vertical and *rua* on the occupation platform showing up as open holes rather than the usual greatly modified depressions.

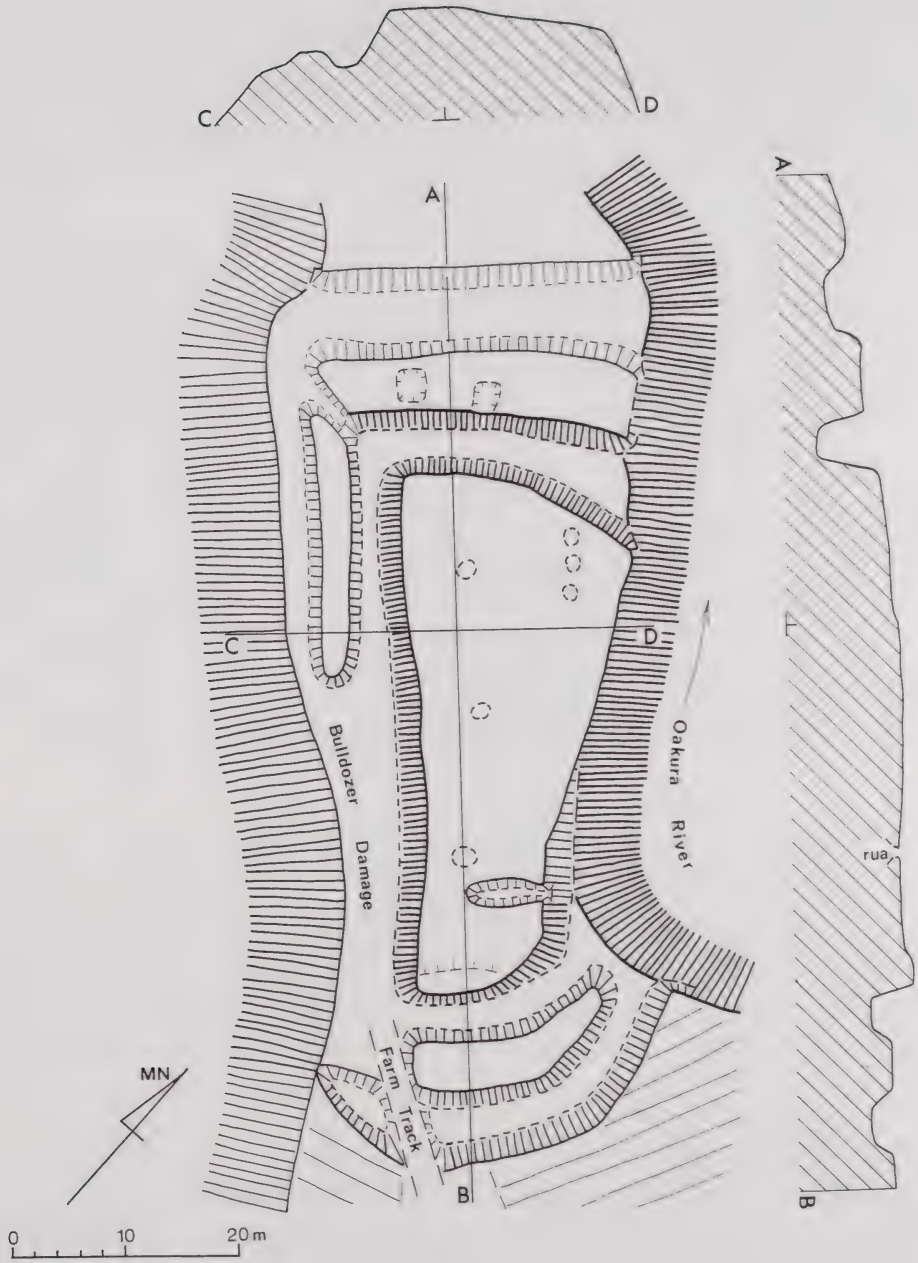
The pa is situated on a narrow spur which runs down beside the Oakura River. Natural defence on the east side is a 15-20 m cliff to the river, while the west side of the site drops away *ca.* 6-10 m into a narrow gully with higher ground on the adjacent spur 40 m away. Up the spur to the south is a slight dip before the ground rises again at *ca.* 50 m distance from the outer defences. Below the fortification to the north the spur falls away only slowly allowing easy access from the downhill end. Artificial defences consist of a double ditch and bank at both ends of the site with a single ditch joining the two inner ditches along the west side. The deep ditches and near vertical scarps make these defences among the most impressive of the survey area. At the downhill (north) end the inner ditch is 5 m deep with the broad outer ditch 2-3 m deep. At the southern end the scarp from the occupation platform is *ca.* 4 m high with the inner ditch counterscarp and the outer ditch *ca.* 2 m deep. On the west side of the pa the platform scarp is *ca.* 4 m high with what remains indicating a comparatively low bank topping the steep rise out of the gully. Slight defensive banks are situated on platform rims at the south end of the main platform and on the north side of the broad bank between the two ditches at the north end.

The occupation platform is 46 x 10-20 m in size giving an area of *ca.* 650 m<sup>2</sup>. Six *rua* were discovered on the platform but more are almost certainly present under the dense cover. From the south the main platform rises slightly to the centre before falling away to the north end. The broad defensive bank of the north end includes some evidence of occupational use in the form of a rectangular depression and a large collapsed area which may signify *rua*, in addition to the defensive bank on the outer rim. Approximately 20 m from the outer defences at the north end are two small artificial terraces, while four or more terraces are located *ca.* 100 m from the pa at the foot of the spur next to a broad river flat.

## Raumaterua N108/32 (560833) Fig. 32

Raumaterua is located on the right bank of the Oakura River *ca.* 3 km from the sea, across the river from Takereputa. The site is in fair condition with much of the defences under grass and the scarps and platform mostly under dense gorse which, while it makes mapping difficult, has undoubtedly helped in preservation.

The pa is strongly situated on a steep sided spur which runs down to the south-east from the extensive terrace of the Koru Road district. The west side is secured by a 12 m cliff to the river while the north side drops precipitously *ca.* 9 m into a now swampy gully.

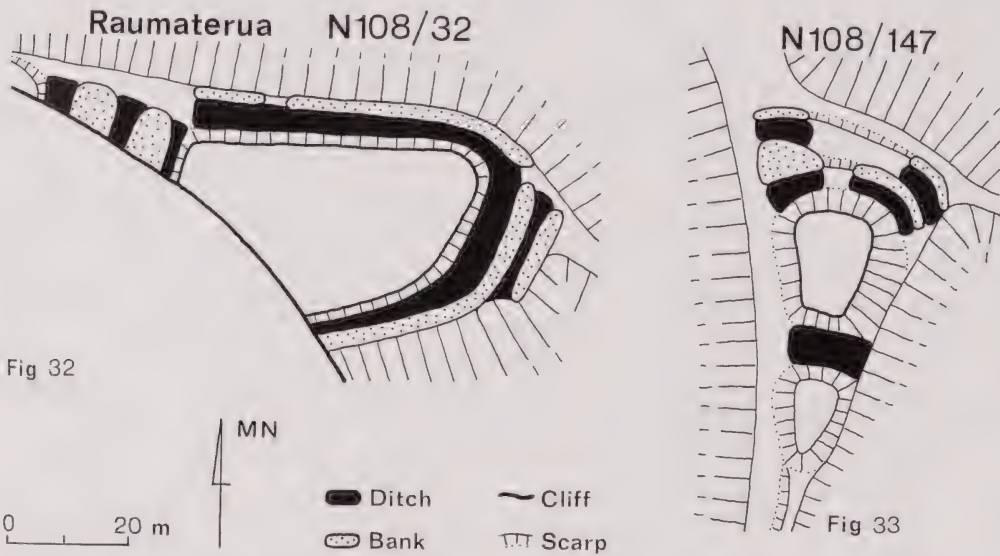


TAKEREPUTA N108/31

Fig. 31. Plan and sections of Takereputa (N108/31).

At the north-west end of the site a narrow spur dips slightly before rising to dominate the defences from *ca.* 80 m distance. At the south-east end of the site is a spur which provides easy access 100 m down to the river. Artificial defence at the north-west end consists of three ditches cutting the narrow spur; these are now very short and may have been subject to some loss over the cliff into the river. Along the northern side is a single ditch which does not appear ever to have been very deep and may have operated for part of its length simply as terrace and scarp defence. The scarp to the platform is *ca.* 3 m high. At the east end is a short section of double ditch and bank cutting off the downhill spur.

The occupation platform is *ca.* 45 m long and 6-26 m broad. The area is *ca.* 700 m<sup>2</sup>. Dense gorse ruled out a thorough examination and only one *rua* was found at the platform's eastern corner.



Figs. 32, 33. Pa plans. 32. Raumaterua (N108/32). 33. N108/147.

#### Puketapu N108/152 (546839)

This pa was situated within a major bend of the Oakura River about 1 km from the sea. The location is typically low on a spur commanding little more than the adjacent river flats and itself dominated by the rim of extensive terrace country about 200 m to the north. In the 1950 aerial photograph (1788/6) Puketapu is hidden under bush which occupied the entire peninsula. The site was almost totally destroyed in the early 1950s during bush clearing operations.

Puketapu enjoyed strong natural defence — two sides dropping abruptly some 15-20 m to the river and the spur end also offering a precipitous natural approach. Only the uphill end of the spur lacks natural defence, although even here a high point does allow some command over a slight saddle to the north. A local informant describes very strong artificial defence. All that now remains is *ca.* 5 m of double ditch and bank at the south end between the farm track and the cliff to the river and a single almost completely filled ditch which extends 8 m beyond the track. A slight cut in the eastern margin of the

platform *ca.* 40 m from these defences may indicate the end of another defensive ditch. Such defence secured only the high point of the outer end of the isthmus and the defended area would thus have been about 400 m<sup>2</sup>. Topography, however, suggests the northern defences may have been another 60 m further on where a knoll would secure the interior and allow command of the saddle to higher ground. If the pa did indeed extend to this knoll an occupation area of 1500-2000 m<sup>2</sup> is indicated. Some four or five depressions on the site may indicate *rua*.

N108/147 (556821) Fig. 33

This small pa is situated about 180 m above sea level on a narrow spur which descends from the northern flanks of the Kaitake Ranges above Surrey Hill Road. Use has been made of a relatively broad part of the ridge to create a small strongly defended position. The site is *ca.* 100 m south-east and 20 m higher than N108/146. Unlike the neighbouring site, however, N108/147 is in very poor condition. Defences of the west side have been used for a farm road to gain access up the spur and macrocarpas have been planted over the site. The tree planting and subsequent stock damage has resulted in scarps being broken down, ditches filled in and the occupation platform itself badly damaged.

Natural defences include a narrow spur and slight saddle to the south, with the ground rising sharply *ca.* 60 m beyond the site. To the east is a precipitous slope dropping away *ca.* 25 m, while to the west a steep drop of 6-8 m leads to an easy slope downhill to N108/146. To the north the spur continues relatively broad and level for *ca.* 50 m before a moderate slope down. The shape of the artificial defences is determined by the unusual circumstance of a relatively easy approach up the spur and difficult approach down. On the south side of the site is a single broad ditch, beyond which is a triangular platform *ca.* 12 m in length which rises to a high point at the outer end and then drops away into the saddle without further artificial defence. At the north end is a 25-30 m long double ditch and bank of which the outer is damaged almost beyond recognition. This relatively strong defence is directed at the easy approach up the spur. On the west end of the intervening bank is a triangular platform *ca.* 5 x 10 m. On the east and west flanks of the pa roading damage and natural erosion have left the defences somewhat unclear. From appearances there was no ditch and bank on the east side and defence seems to have been left to the precipitous natural scarp. The presence of the farm road rules out interpretation of defences on the more vulnerable west side although either a ditch and bank or a terrace presumably would have provided the basis for the present road.

The four-sided occupation platform dips slightly to the north. It measures *ca.* 16 x 7-12 m with an area of *ca.* 160 m<sup>2</sup>.

N108/146 (555822) Fig. 34

N108/146 is located on the north flank of the Kaitake Ranges above Surrey Hill Road, in the headwaters of the Wakamure Stream. It is situated on a short steeply sloping spur just east of the major ridge which extends northwards east of Wairau Road and west of the narrow spur on which is located N108/147. It is now under grass with some mahoe, ponga and gorse, mostly on the scarps. It is in excellent order despite damage to the east side for a farm road and some stock damage on the occupation platform scarp. The defensive scarps are high and, for much of the perimeter, close to vertical. The superb surface evidence for internal organisation of the occupation platform makes this one of the outstanding small pa of the survey area.

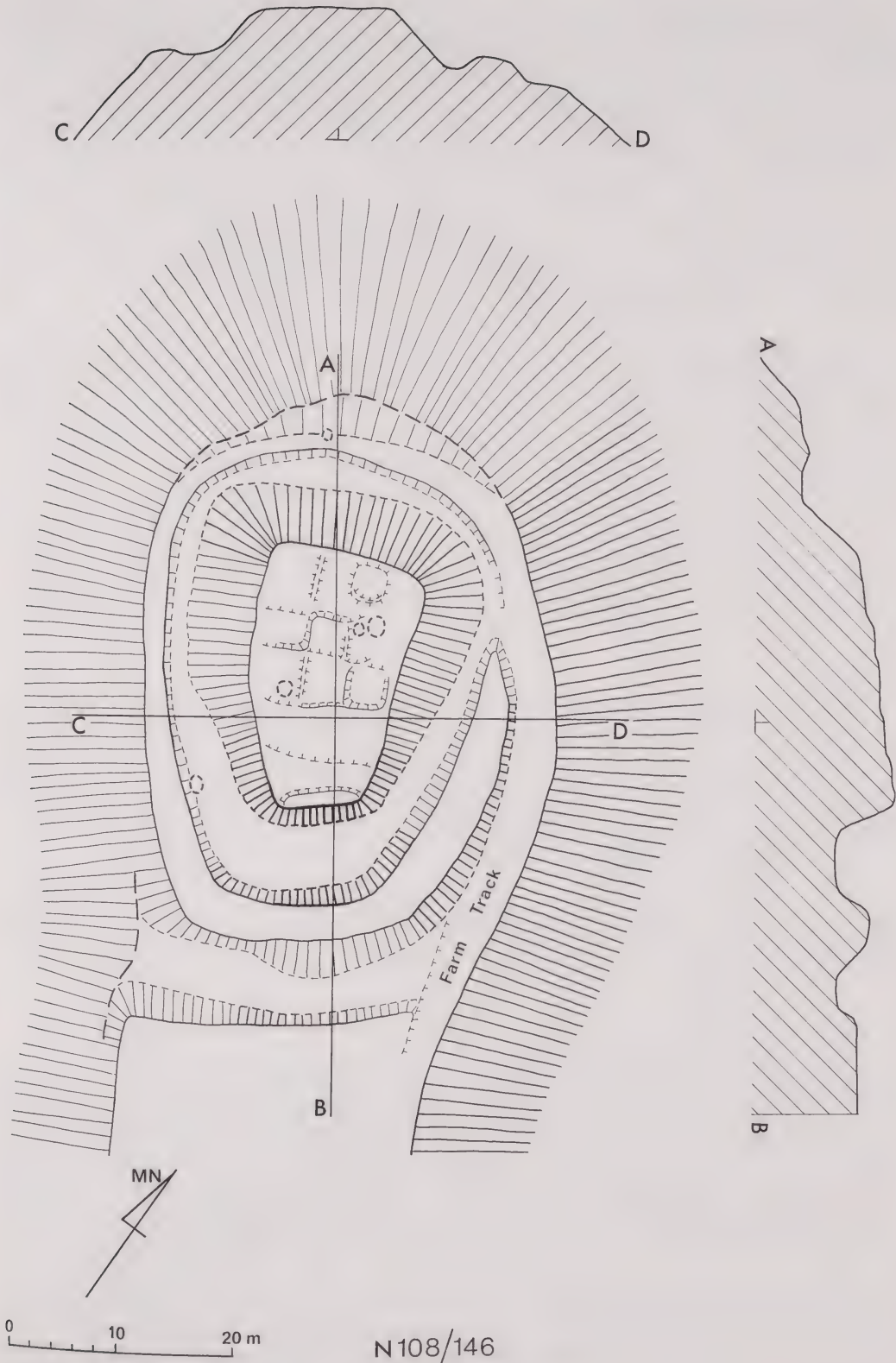


Fig. 34. Plan and sections of N108/146.

N108/146 has strong natural defences on three sides. To the north the broad front of the spur drops sharply *ca.* 30 m to the fork of two small tributaries of the Wakamure Stream. On the two flanks of the site are steep drops 10-15 m into small gullies. Only the south end is vulnerable to attack: here the ground is level outside the defences for *ca.* 20 m before rising quickly to command the site. Artificial defences consist of a single ditch and bank which rings the occupation platform, along with a second ditch across the spur at the vulnerable south end. The platform scarp is 4-5 m high with the greatest height presented at the south end. The bank at the south end is 3 m high from both ditches, with the outer counterscarp here *ca.* 2 m high. On the other three sides the counterscarp of the single ditch is much less substantial at 1-1.5 m. At the high south end of the occupation platform is a pronounced bank *ca.* 1 m wide and 30-40 cm high.

The occupation platform is 21 x 8-13 m giving an area of *ca.* 230 m<sup>2</sup>. The marked slope down to the north has led to extensive modification with about twelve small terraces apparent. The two uppermost terraces span the platform, here *ca.* 10 m wide. The greater part of the platform is taken up by three rows of well-defined terraces, some divided off by scarps only and some by low banks. The terraces are presumably designed to accommodate houses or other buildings. On two of the terraces are a total of three *rua*.

A single *rua* is dug into the counterscarp near the south-west corner of the ditch while another possible *rua* is located on the bank at the north end of the site. Below the fortification on the steep hillside to the north are about four terraces.

#### N108/151 (544835)

On the 1950 aerial photograph (1788/6) a ring-ditch pa in good condition shows up on a knoll north of Surrey Hill Road about 100 m from the Wairau Road corner. The fortification was typically located below the terrace country to the west although it did command a useful view of the lower Wakamure Stream and the Oakura River valley, and down the valley of the Matekai Stream to the north-west. It also completely dominates the site N108/34 across the Wakamure Stream. N108/151 was destroyed in 1970.

The 1950 aerial photograph shows this pa to have been oval in plan of *ca.* 35 x 40 m total size. The present house sits on the occupation platform which may have been *ca.* 400 m<sup>2</sup> in size. A major terrace on north and west sides of the garden probably makes use of the old ditch and bank.

#### N108/34 (544836) Fig. 35

N108/34 is situated within a major bend of the Wakamure Stream *ca.* 1.5 km from the sea, close to the corner of Wairau and Surrey Hill Roads. Immediately over the stream to the south was the ring-ditch pa N108/151 which dominated its neighbour to such an extent that it seems unlikely N108/34 could have been defended without possession of the other. Indeed, N108/34 occupies a singularly unobtrusive site low in the valley and is commanded not only from N108/151 but from the rim of the rising terrace country to the west as well. The site is in generally good condition under second growth bush.

The chief natural defence of this site is the precipitous slope to the Wakamure Stream which almost completely surrounds it. At the south side the stream is only 3-4 m below the site while just over the narrow isthmus it is 15-20 m below. Artificial defence consists of

two substantial ditches which cut the narrow access spur and major scarps within the pa which divide it into a number of defensible areas above the precipitous slopes to the stream. The fortification is unusual in the survey area in the lack of ring-ditch defence and the use of scarps and terraces; the only site it can easily be compared with in this respect is the much larger Koru.

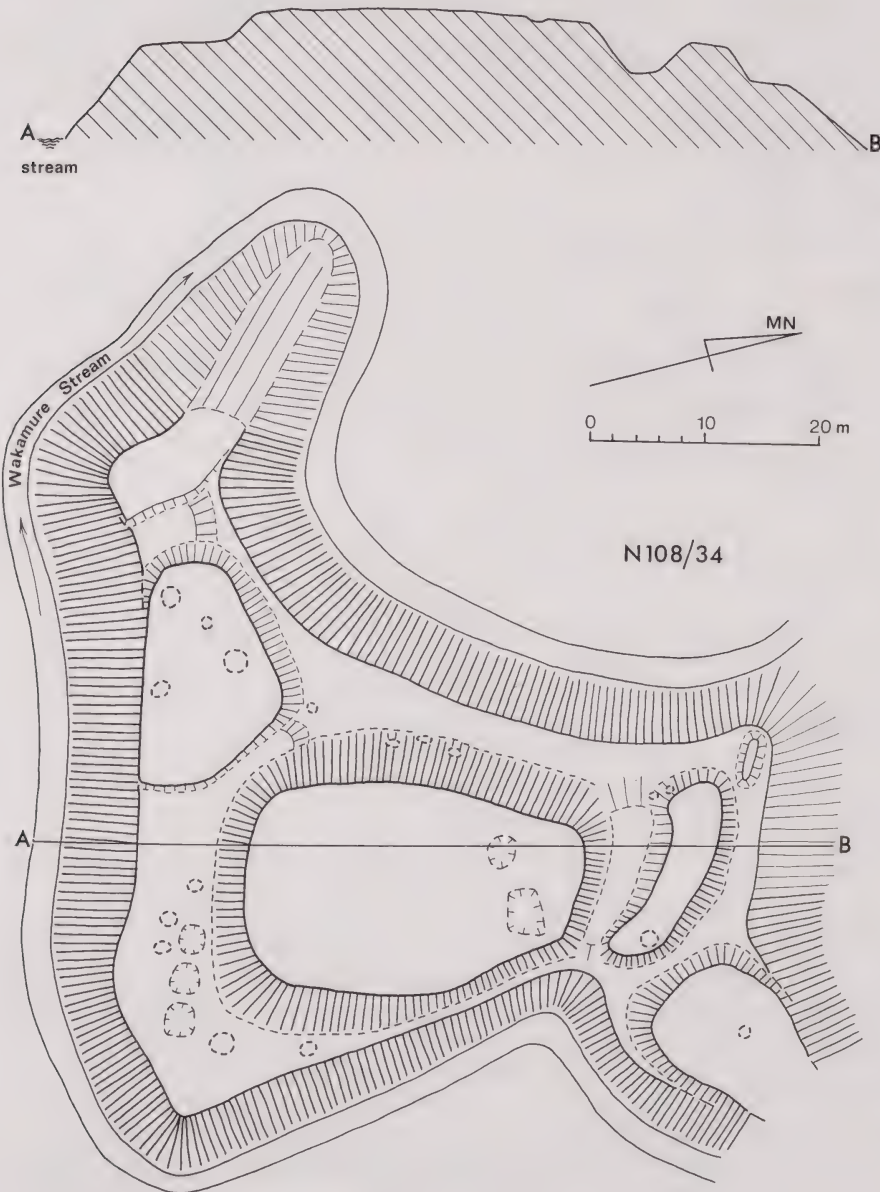


Fig. 35. Plan and section of N108/34.

Within the defences are two large platforms and a major terrace which encircles the larger platform and extends down the side of the other. At the western margin of the site is a third small platform. The occupation area is roughly triangular in shape, of a total area of *ca.* 1300 m<sup>2</sup> (within the double ditch defences, but including internal scarp defence). The major platform is more than 400 m<sup>2</sup> and the smaller is *ca.* 170 m<sup>2</sup>. At the west end of the major platform are two larger depressions, while the smaller platform has four *rua*. Another nine *rua* and three depressions are grouped in two areas on the lower terrace while three more *rua* are within the defensive area (two in the inner ditch and one on the broad intervening bank), and one is outside the defences. A total of 17 *rua* indicates substantial storage on the site. The five depressions may also be collapsed *rua*. The siting of *rua* at the foot of scarps is against reminiscent of Koru where this is a preferred location and contrasts with the usual platform location of *rua* on ring-ditch pa within the survey district.

#### N108/140 (542821) Fig. 36

N108/140 is located *ca.* 180 m above sea level on a spur which runs north from the Kaitake Ranges south of the Wairau Stream. It is *ca.* 200 m within the Egmont National Park boundary up a spur which leads on to the 'Looney D' trig station. It is now under dense gorse, a tangle of felled and standing pine, mahoe, kawakawa and mamaku and other regenerating native species. The site is generally in good condition under the vegetation, with high defensive scarps having undergone little erosion. Along the west side the ditch and bank have been used to form a road for access up the spur, this road also cutting the end of the outer ditch at the uphill end of the site.

The fortification makes use of a slight knoll located just before the ridge drops away steeply to the north. It is very little higher than the narrow ridge to the south which rises above the pa at *ca.* 50 m distance. The sides of the ridge are steep but not precipitous as they fall away into gullies some 50-60m below the site. Artificial defences are made up of a single continuous ditch and bank surrounding the occupation platform and a second ditch outside at the vulnerable southern end. The defences are strong with a 4m high scarp surrounding the platform, the 4 m high bank giving additional protection to the south end, and 2-3 m deep counterscarps within the outer bank around the site. At the southern rim of the occupation platform is a pronounced bank which adds to the defence of this end of the fortification. A slight rim may be present around some of the remainder of the platform.

The occupation platform is 20 x 13 m maximum dimensions, of a somewhat rounded plan. The area might be a little more than 200 m<sup>2</sup>. There is no sign of *rua*, nor is there any clear indication of internal terracing on the generally level platform. It is likely there are artificial terraces immediately below the pa on the north side but these also are unclear under the present cover.

#### N108/108 (531842)

N108/108 is located *ca.* 200 m from the Oakura Beach directly behind the present surf lifesaving club building, between the Wairau and Waimoku Streams. The location is typically low-lying: use is made of a slight knoll on the end of an undistinguished spur with an easy approach 100 m down the spur from extensive terrace country to the south. The site was almost completely destroyed during road works for a residential subdivision in late 1977. What remains is now under pasture.